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Krunal's 50 helps RCB beat DC, move to No. 1 position

Krunal Pandya recorded his first 50 in IPL since 2016, helping Royal Challengers Bengaluru pull off a six-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in New Delhi on Sunday. Krunal (73 no. of 47 balls) paced his innings perfectly while batting alongside chase master Virat Kohli (51 off 47). The duo shared a 119-run stand off 84 balls as RCB chased down 163 in 18.3 overs to extend their unbeaten run away from home. RCB are now in the top position with 14 points. RBC will play CSK next | P13

IGNITING MINDS,
INSPIRING FUTURES

SAPTHAGIRI NPS
UNIVERSITY
UNMATCHED EXCELLENCE, UNLIMITED POTENTIAL
BENGALURU, KARNATAKA

Dr. K.P. Gopalkrishna
Chairman, National Public Schools
President, Sapthagiri NPS University

The President of Sapthagiri NPS University Dr. K.P. Gopal Krishna is a living Legend, an educationalist, a popular person in education. He is the founder Chairman of the National Public Schools, and the recipient of the famous Karnataka Rajyotsava award in 2018. He always believes that innovation, Creativity and problem solving abilities are the central of Sapthagiri NPS University. Under his stewardship the youth to excel in the area of Medicine, Engineering, Commerce and Management in Sapthagiri NPS University.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE PUC ASPIRANTS!

SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

2.75 LAKHS PER YEAR
- B. Tech - Computer Science & Engineering
- B. Tech - CSE (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- B. Tech - CSE (Artificial Intelligence and Data Science)
- B. Tech - CSE (Data Science)

2.50 LAKHS PER YEAR
- B. Tech - Electronics & Communication Engineering

2.0 LAKHS PER YEAR
- B. Tech - Electrical & Electronic Engineering

SCHOOL OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

1.50 LAKHS PER YEAR
- BCA - General
- BCA - Data Science
- BCA - Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- BCA - Cloud Computing and Cyber Security

SCHOOL OF
MANAGEMENT STUDIES

MBA WITH SPECIALIZATION

2.50 LAKHS PER YEAR
- MBA - Financial Management (FM)
- MBA - Human Resource Management (HRM)
- MBA - Business Analytical and Big Data Analytics (BA & BDA)
- MBA - Logistics & supply chain management (L & SCM)
- MBA - Digital Transformation (DT)
- MBA - Health Care Management
- MBA - Information Technology & Systems

MCA WITH SPECIALIZATION

2.50 LAKHS PER YEAR
- MCA - General
- MCA - Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- MCA - Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- MCA - Cyber Security and Forensic Science

Scan for Admission

- ENGINEERING
- APPLIED SCIENCES
- MANAGEMENT STUDIES
- MEDICAL

RANKED AS TOP UNIVERSITY IN KARNATAKA | SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED SEATS

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR AY 2025-26

#14/5 Chikkasandra, Hesarghatta Main Road, Bengaluru – 560 057.

99000 72632 | 90359 22191 | 90359 22192 | 90359 22193 | 080-29633636

admissions@snpsu.edu.in / director.marketing@snpsu.edu.in www.snpsu.edu.in

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Govt. Business Dept., Local Head Office,
4th Floor, III/1, Pt. J.N. Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001,
Email: agmgad.lhobhu@sbi.co.in

TENDER FOR HIRING OF CASH VANS INCLUDING DRIVER CUSTODIANS AND ARMED GUARDS ON AS & WHERE BASIS ON RENTAL FOR USE AT ITS VARIOUS BRANCHES UNDER SBI BHUBANESWAR CIRCLE

Two bid sealed tenders are invited from Firms/Companies/Trust for **"Hiring of Cash vans including driver custodians and armed guards on as & where basis on rental for use at its various branches under SBI Bhubaneswar circle".**

The seal tenders must reach the above address latest by **19.05.2025 (Monday) upto 3.00 P.M.** The tender will be opened on **19.05.2025 (Monday) at 3.30 P.M.** at the above address. For further details, please visit Bank's Website: **https://sbi.co.in under Procurement news.** Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is **19.05.2025 upto 3.00 P.M.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 28.04.2025 Asst. General Manager (GBD & FSLO)

WESTERN RAILWAY

STORES DEPARTMENT

E- AUCTION SALE DURING MAY 2025 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in **MAY 2025** as per program given below:

1st Round	2nd Round	Depot/Division	Officer in Charge	Contact No.
05/05/2025	19/05/2025	**Dahod**	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-Dahod	02673241295 09724090455
06/05/2025	19/05/2025	**Ratlam**	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-Ratlam	07412230080 09752492750
07/05/2025	20/05/2025	**Vadodara**	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-Vadodara	02652641592 09724091750
08/05/2025	21/05/2025	**Sabarmati**	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-Sabarmati	07927500080 09724093774
09/05/2025	22/05/2025	**Mumbai Central**	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-Mumbai Central	022-23094142 09004499006
13/05/2025	23/05/2025	**Ahmedabad**	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-Ahmedabad	07922205888 09724093750
14/05/2025	26/05/2025	**Bhavnagar**	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-Bhavnagar	02782444360 09724097750
15/05/2025	27/05/2025	**Pratapnagar**	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-Pratapnagar	0265-2658858 9724045550
16/05/2025	28/05/2025	**Rajkot**	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-Rajkot	02812476943 09724093750
16/05/2025	29/05/2025	**Mahalaxmi**	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-Mahalaxmi	022-24929571 09004495750
16/05/2025	29/05/2025	**Pardi**	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-Mahalaxmi	022-24929571 09004495750

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot/Divisional Officers. **Note :- 1.**Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. **2.** e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. **3.** e-Auction catalogues will be available on site **www.ireps.gov.in** e-Auction portal. **4.** In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures. Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot/Divisional Officer. **5.** All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.

(No.S/SIII/Auction Programme-1/MAY 2025, Dated 11.04.2025) 0089

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CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of sum of **Rs.27,61,733/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Three only)** as on **21-04-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **22-04-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Pratap Ram, S/o. Nemaram, No.833, Free Site, 4th Cross, Chennakesava Nagar, Hosa Road, Electronic City, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100. No.2) Mrs. Sushila, W/o. Pratap Ram, No.833, Free Site, 4th Cross, Chennakesava Nagar, Hosa Road, Electronic City, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Pratap Ram, S/o. Nemaram)

All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property bearing Residential Northern Portion of Site No.227, New No.285, formed in Survey No.42, situated at Chennakeshava Nagar, 1st Cross, Singasandra, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently comes under BBMP Limits, Measuring : East to West 40 feet, North to South 15 feet, in all measuring 600 Sq.ft., together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsover underneath or above the surface and bounded thereon : East by : Road (Previous site No.226), West by : Site No.260 (old 228), North by : Site No.234, South by : Remaining Portion of same Site belongs to Rajappa.

Reserve Price : Rs.55,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Five Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
16-05-2025	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Jigani Branch,** Plot No.3A1, 2nd Phase, Jigani Industrial Area Taluk, Jigani, Bangalore - 560105. Cell No.9341055177.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Jigani Branch, Plot No.3A1, 2nd Phase, Jigani Industrial Area Taluk, Jigani, Bangalore - 560105. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 03.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Cell No.9341055177. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **04.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 23-04-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring it to the Notice of the General Public **M/S. SHAKTHI PACKAGINGS, represented by its Managing Partner, Mr. D.S Ramesh,** aged about 53 years, residing at No.4, 3rd Floor, Vinayaka Layout, Hoysala Nagar, 3rd Main, Horamavu, Horamavu Post, Bengaluru – 560 043 are intending to sell the schedule property mentioned hereunder to **"The Archdiocese of Bangalore"** represented by Auxiliary Bishop of Bangalore presently Most Rev Dr. Arokiaraj Satis Kumar, person/s objecting for the proposed sale or purchase, or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the schedule property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims whatso ever along with documentary proof **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice to the address given below; failing which; we will proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above mentioned Institution.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Assessment No. 488/231/Site No. 13,14, eID No. 7716867836, Form B, of Ward No. 25 and Horamavu Ward, Chelkere Street, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (Previously known as Banglaore South Taluk), presently it is within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 46 feet, in total measuring 2760 square feet out of which 2200 sq ft is built up and the 560 sq ft is vacant land and bounded on the:

East by : Site No. 12, **West by** : Site No.15,
North by: Private Property, **South by:**Road.

Fr. Babu, Advocate
Archbishop's House, No.75, Miller's Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560 046

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring it to the Notice of the General Public **Smt. S. JAYALAXMI alias Jayalakshmi,** aged about 75 years, W/o Sri. G.D. Sigamani, residing at No.10, Muniswamappa Road, Maruthi Sevanagar, Bengaluru – 560 033 **is** intending to sell the schedule property mentioned hereunder to **"The Archdiocese of Bangalore"** represented by Auxiliary Bishop of Bangalore presently Most Rev Dr. Arokiaraj Satis Kumar, person/s objecting for the proposed sale or purchase, or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the schedule property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims whatsoever along with documentary proof **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice to the address given below; failing which; we will proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above mentioned Institution.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Assessment No. 489/231/Site No. 16,17, eID No. 2365266592, Form B, of Ward No. 25 and Horamavu Ward, Chelkere Street, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (Previously known as Banglaore South Taluk), presently it is within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 47 feet and North to South 48 feet, in total measuring 2256 square feet out of which 1800 sq ft is the built up and 456 sq ft is the vacant land and bounded on the:

East by : Site No. 15,
West by : Private Property,
North by : Private Property,
South by : 20 feet Road

Fr. Babu, Advocate
Archbishop's House, No.75, Miller's Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560 046

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	34019630000271	1) Mrs. Suma S, 2) Mr. Subbayya/ Mr. Subbaiah	07-02-2025 Rs.3,44,549.80 (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine and Eighty Paisa Only) due as on 06-02-2025	Date: 24-04-2025 Time: 04:00 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.84/1, Khaneshumari No.74, situated at Jalige Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded on: On the East:** Property belongs to Muniraju, **On the West:** Road, **On the North:** Dalamma Temple Road, **On the South:** Property belongs to Muniraju. Measuring East to West: 24 Feet and North to South: 16 Feet.			

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Date: 28.04.2025 **For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites Bids for the following works.

No. CEE/TRZ/SEE(O)/AE/25-26/758-60 Dated: 25.04.2025

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AE/2025-26/0011 Dated: 24.04.2025. Tender for procurement of 66KV class CT's (Ratios: 1600-1200-800-600 /1-1- 1A, 1200-800/ 1- 1-1A, 1000-800-600/ 1- 1-1A & 800-600-400/ 1-1-1A) required for maintenance of Substations in Transmission Operation Zone, Tumakuru.

No. CEE/TRZ/SEE(O)/AE/25-26/755-57 Dated: 25.04.2025

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AE/2025-26/0009 Dated: 24.04.2025. Tender for procurement of 110KV class CT's (Ratios: 400-200/1-1-1A & 200-100/1-1-1A) required for maintenance of Substations in Transmission Operation Zone, Tumakuru.

No. CEE/TRZ/SEE(O)/AE/25-26/761-63 Dated: 25.04.2025

3) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AE/2025-26/0010 Dated: 24.04.2025. Tender for procurement of 66KV class CT's (Ratios: 400-200-100/1-1-1A, 200-100/1-1-1A & 300-150/1-1-1A) required for maintenance of Substations in Transmission Operation Zone, Tumakuru.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPP Portal process can be obtained by logging on to KPP Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** OR KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** or click on hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' **on or after 02.05.2025 (for Sl No.1) and 03.05.2025 (for Sl No.2 & 3).** The other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operation) Zone,
KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana", 1st Floor, 66/11kV, Tumakuru Sub-station Premises, Tumakuru - 03. Ph: 0816-2279074/75

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. PRABAKAR SOUNDAR RAJAN, Son of Mr. A.S. Rajan, Residing at No. 797, 17th F-2, Main Road, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095, Aadhar No.6381 2152 7376,Who is the absolute owner of schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule herein given below, and has entered into a sale agreement with my client Mr. ASLAM KHAN. Any person claiming with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof should write to the undersigned on or before 08-05-2025 from the date of publication with Documentary Proof on which they have based their claim, failing which it is deemed that there is no impediment to complete the sale and my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Vacant Site bearing No. 21, EPID No. 8403882696, Byatarayanapura CMC Khatha No. 33/2/21, BBMP Khatha No. 971/943/33/2/21, Converted Sy No. 33/2, Vide its conversion Order No. BDS.ALN.SR(NA)576/2004-2005, dated 05-04-2005 issued at Sampigenahalli, Yelahanka Hobli, Banaloreorth Taluk, Comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike(BBMP), Previously under the limits of Byatarayanapura CMC, Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 Square Feet. And bounded on the: East by: Private Property, West by: 30 Feet Road, North by: Site No. 20, South by: Site No. 22.

Bangalore **Sd/- VOLGA.C.P., B.A.L. LLB**
25-04-2025 **ADVOCATE, AV Legal Associates**
Office No. 992, Gopal Reddy Building, Kacharakanahalli, Bengaluru-84
Mob: 9986846203, 9379191448

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring the notice of the General Public that my client, **Smt.Sheela Shankar,** Wife of Sri.C.Shankar, Aged about 55 Years, Residing at No.8, 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Vinobha Nagar Main Road, Shivmoga – 577 204., do hereby declare that she has lost her Original Sale Deed dated.08.05.2000, Bearing Document No.1106/2000-01, of Book- I, Stored in Volume No.1911, Pages 74 to 81, in the file of the Sub Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore, in respect of the Residential Site bearing No.83/4, Khata No.83, Out of Converted Sy.No.19 and others, Measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South 45 Feet, Situated at KUMBALGODU VILLAGE, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore District.

Between 23.04.2025 around 10:00 AM to 23.04.2025 around 4 P.M., at a Xerox Shop Near Kengeri, Bangalore, the document was missing or misplaced, the above said original sale deed.

With her best efforts she could not able to trace the same, in this regard she has lodged a police missing Lost Report No: 1581957/2025, dated 26.04.2025, since not traced, if any one find the above said original document, may kindly be handover the same to the undersigned or to the nearby police station, in case anybody misuse the said document, my client is not responsible for the same., Any person/s having objection/s or claims, with respect to the schedule property, may with documentary evidence, lodge their objections/claims within 7 days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, where after no further claims will be entertained and or the same will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.

TARKA LAW ASSOCIATES
DIVYA.S, Advocate
No.129, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Ranganathapura, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore - 560 079.
Mob. No.8217768487.

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BANGALORE
P. AND SC. 208/2025 (CCH - 45)

BETWEEN: SMT. DIVYA BENNI, W/o. Raju, aged about 39 Years, R/at No. 29/30, Mahadeva Nilaya, 3rd Floor, Obalappa Street, Hosa Cross, Chikkamavalli, Basavanagudi, Bangalore South Bangalore-560004... **PETITIONER**

AND: NIL... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the above name petitioner have filed the aforesaid petition before this Hon'ble Court under section 276 of Indian Succession Act for grant of Probate in favor of the petitioner in respect of the 'B' schedule property mentioned in the petition and The testator, the said late T R Goplakrishnan had executed the Will in favor of the petitioner and he died on 15-11-2023. Hence, interested parties are hereby called to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **27-06-2025** at **11:00 A.M,** to show cause against the petition, failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared ex-parte.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the property of Immovable residential property bearing New No. 153, Formed by the City Improvement Trust Board in the 7th Block, in the Jayanagar Extension Bangalore Now within the BBMP Bearing Katha No.12, Old No.153, and 12/1, old No. No. 153, totally Site Measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 75 feet, Bounded as **East by:** Site No. 152, **West by:** Site No. 154, **North by:** Site No. 161 and 162, **South by**: Road, (including all the rights privileges etc thereon)

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the property 1/3rd Share of right title in the "A" Scheduled property New Katha No. 12/1, Old No. 153, PID No. 59-95-12/1, including residential building in the First Floor, Measuring 1300 Sq. Ft.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 22-04-2025.

By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

NAIK KRISHNAMURTHY .M,
Advocates and Notary,
KRISHNAMURTHY & ASSOCIATES
#384, Shri Hari Plaza, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 13th Cross, Bhashyam Circle, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560080.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is represented to the undersigned that **Sri. S. Srinivas Murthy,** aged about 67 years, son of (son of N.R.S. Sastri), residing at No.22, 5th B Cross, Sarakki Main Road, J.P. Nagar 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560078, has lost/misplaced the below mentioned original document pertaining to the Site bearing Site No.22 and 22/1, V.P. Khatha No.63/3, measuring East to West 35 feet and North to South 60 feet and bounded on the East by Private Property, West by Road, North by Site No. 23 and South by Private Property, Sale Deed dated 05-09-1992 (registered on 19-9-1992) registered as document No. 3711/1992-93, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri and lodge the complaint No. 1581655/2025 Dated 26-04-2025.

It is further represented by **Sri. S. Srinivas Murthy** that he has not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the aforesaid property in any manner or pledged the original document as security to any loans / borrowings. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid original document shall return the same to the undersigned or lodge their claims with documentary evidence within Seven (7) days from the date of this notice.

Suresh Kumar G R, Advocate
No.48, 1st Floor, 4th A Main, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024. Mobile: 9442832825
Bengaluru, Date: 26/04/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **SMT. BHAGYAMMA,** aged about 60 years, W/o Sri.N.Gangadhara, residing at No.283, Opp to new Village Panchayath Office, Doddajala Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore-562157.

In view of the above, anybody who has any manner of right or interest on the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for the purchase; may file their objections in writing with documentary proof before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, and if the undersigned does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner, then it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from all sort of encumbrances, claims, mortgages and obligations and my client shall go on with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of 10 Guntas out of 32 Guntas of residential converted land in Sy.No.42 of Doddajala Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on the:

East by : Land in Sy.No.43,
West by : 40 Feet Road,
North by : Land in Sy.No.42 sold to Smt. Sridhevi N and Sri.Bothna Ram Bharat Reddy,
South by : Remaining Land in Sy.No. 42 retained by the Vendor

PRABHAKAR L. SHETTY, Advocate
No.6/3, Kumara Cot Layout, Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Ph.No. 9448075994 **DATE : 26.04.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Mrs. S. Padmaja Prasad** and **Mr. S.L Shiva Prasad** intend to purchase the BDA Site No. 453, VI Block, Anjanapura, Bengaluru from the present owner Mr. S. Salahuddin Khan Residing at 3B, 3rd floor, No.7, Basappa Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027 more fully described in the schedule hereunder for a valuable consideration.

Any person asserting any rights over the schedule property may lodge his/their objections in writing to the undersigned **within 21 days** from the date of this publication.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Site No.453 in Anjanapura Extension 6th Block, Bangalore totally measuring 108 sq meters and bounded on: **East:** Site No.432, **West:** Road, **North:** Site No. 454 and **South:** Site No.452.

M. NASRULLAH KHAN, Advocate
S.F. No.27/A, H.M.S. Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru-560 002
Mob: 9341245809, 81971 97360.
Date: 26-04-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring it to the Notice of the General Public that **MRS. PREETHI AGRAWAL,** aged about Aged about 53 years, W/o Sri. Kiran Patel. L, Residing at No.202, 5th A Cross, HRBR Layout, 3rd Block, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru – 560 043 is intending to sell the schedule property mentioned hereunder to **"The Archdiocese of Bangalore"** represented by Auxiliary Bishop of Bangalore presently Most Rev Dr. Arokiaraj Satis Kumar, person/s objecting for the proposed sale or purchase, or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the schedule property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims whatsoever along with documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice to the address given below; failing which; we will proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above mentioned Institution.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Assessment No. 952/231/Site No. 15, eID No. 3231951480, Form B, of Ward No. 25 and Horamavu Ward, Horamavu Agara Street, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (Previously known as Banglaore South Taluk), presently it is within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 48 feet, in total measuring 1440 square feet of vacant land and bounded on the:

East by : Site No. 14, **West by** : Site No.16,
North by: Private Property, **South by:** Road.

Fr. Babu, Advocate
Archbishop's House, No.75, Miller's Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560 046

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE (POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)

NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399207, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in

540/MCC/3107/2024/E3/GAD 21/04/2025

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES(Permanent)

Assistant Professor - Radiology/Radiodiagnosis
Scale of pay – 101500-167400, Level 12of 7th CPC

Online Applications are invited for the aforementioned posts on permanent basis.

E62613/MCC/216/2023/E2/GAD 21/04/2025

Technician Nuclear Medicine
Scale of pay – 35400-112400, Level 6 of 7th CPC

Online Applications are invited for the aforementioned posts on permanent basis. E/B/T,SC,OC
The last date for submitting online applications are 19/05/2025- 5PM.

No.E 347611 MCC/430/2022-E3-GAD/98 25/04/2025

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES

Online applications are invited for the post of Assistant Pharmacist in MCC(PGIOSR) on Contract Basis.

No.E 7341 MCC/224/2022-GAD-E4/99 25/04/2025

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES

Online applications are invited for the post of Junior Research Fellow (Project), Resident Technician Molecular Oncology, Resident Pharmacist and Patient Care Assistant in MCC(PGIOSR) on Contract Basis.

The last date for submitting online application is 10/05/2025 at 12.00 PM.

*** MCC(PGIOSR) invites applications for Senior Resident(Medical) in Clinical Hematology& Medical Oncology, Anesthesiology, Radiation oncology and Surgical oncology.**

*** MCC(PGIOSR) invites applications for Non-Stipendiary Training Programs in various disciplines.**

Details are available in www.mcc.kerala.gov.in **Sd/- Director**

KOTAK MAHINDRA PRIME LTD

kotak®

Registered Office: 27BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051. Branch Office: 1st Floor 20,Uniworth Plaza, Sankey Road, Palace Gutta Halli, Bangalore-560020.

AUCTION / SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for conducting Auction sale under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) and Rules 8(6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of the immovable properties, mortgaged to the **Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited** (hereinafter referred to as the **"KMPL"**) (hereinafter referred to as the "Secured Creditor". Whereas the below mentioned borrower failed to repay the loan amounts to the KMPL, within 60 days from the date of the notice dated 27th Aug 2024 issued by its authorized officer under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT 2002.

WHEREAS the **KMPL** has pursuant to the powers vested in it through its authorized officer **taken the POSSESSION** of the mortgaged property as mentioned below on 15th November 2024 under the provisions of Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and under the provisions of section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred there under.

Notice regarding taking of such possession was published in the News Papers in "New Indian Express" (English) on 21-Nov-2024 and in "Kannada Prabha" (Kannada) on 21-Nov-2024 under Rule 8(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

WHEREAS even thereafter the borrower has failed to repay the aforesaid loan amount to the KMPL, the authorized officer of KMPL has decided to sell the scheduled property/ies ON THE BASIS **"WHAT IS, WHERE IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS"** through the process of INVITING BIDS CUM AUCTION in a sealed cover for the below mentioned property/ies from the intending buyers on the following terms and conditions:

BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS: 1. MR. NAGARAJ S, No.04, Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya, Behind Mother Terasa Memorial School, Tc Palya, Varanasi, Bangalore - 560036, Karnataka. Also at: No,19, Old Property No.95, New Property No.30 Katha No. 95/30/19, Situated at B Narayanapura, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560016, Karnataka. **2. MRS. VEENA NAGARAJ, W/o Nagaraj S,** No.04, Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya, Behind Mother Terasa Memorial School, Tc Palya, Varanasi, Bangalore-560036, Karnataka.

SECURED DEBT AMOUNT: Rs.53,50,605/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Fifty Thousand Six Hundred and Five Only) as on 27/08/2024 plus future interest & costs.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Plot area 1200 Sq.ft of the undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Scheduled property. Residential Property Bearing site No.19, Old Property No.95, New Property No.30, Katha No.95/30/19, situated at B.Narayanapura, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560016. **bounded by: East:** Residential House No.18, **West:** Residential House No.20, **North:** 17 Feet C.C. Road, **South:** Residential Property.

Together with all buildings and structure attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to earth, both present and future and all easementary/mamool rights annexed thereto.

RESERVED PRICE: Rs.1,02,00,000/-; EMD: Rs.10,20,000/-

(A) Last date for submission of bids: 29/05/2025 before 05.00 PM at our Office: Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd , Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd., No.20, 1st Floor, Uniworth Plaza, Sankey Road, Palace Gutta Halli, Bangalore-560020.

(B) Time & Place of opening of bids/auction: 30/05/2025 at 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM at same address.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1) Full description of the above property is available with Authorized officer. The properties/documents can be inspected after fixing date and time with the Authorized Officer.
2) The intending bidders should send their bids to Authorised Officer, at the above said Office address of "Secured Creditor", in a sealed cover scribing as **"Bid for auction/sale of property"** along with EMD by demand draft drawn in favour of Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited, payable at **Bangalore before 05:00 PM on 29/05/2025.**
3) The sealed bids will be opened **on 30/05/2025 at 11:00 AM** and thereafter the eligible bidders may be given an opportunity at the discretion of the Authorized officer to participate in inter-se bidding to enhance the offer price.
4) The successful bidder is required to deposit 25% of the bid amount (exclusive of EMD), on the same day by DD/ Cheque drawn in favour of **"Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd"** payable at Bangalore and the balance amount shall be paid by the successful bidder within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by **KMPL.** The EMD as well as Sale Price paid by the interested bidders shall carry no interest. The deposit of EMD or 35% of sale price, whatever the case may be shall be forfeited by the "Secured Creditor", if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale or commits any default.
5) The successful bidder shall bear all expenses including statutory dues/taxes/bills etc. to Municipal Corporation or any other authorities and fees payable for stamp duty, registration fee etc. for registration of the 'Sale Certificate'.
6) **KMPL** does not take any responsibility to procure any permission/NOC from any Authority or under any other law in force in respect of property offered or any other dues i.e. outstanding water/electric dues, property tax or other charges if any.
7) The Authorized Officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all the offers/bids or adjourn/cancel the sale without assigning any reason or modify any terms of sale without any prior notice.
8) To the best of its knowledge and information, the "Secured Creditor" is not aware of any encumbrances on the properties to be sold except of the "Secured Creditor". Interested parties should make their own assessment of the properties to their satisfaction. **KMPL** does not in any way guarantee or makes any representation with regard to the fitness/title of the aforesaid properties.

For any other information, **Contact Mr. Soundarapandi M - +91 - 7010723382 / Mr. SomaiahP P- +91 76193 59849** may be contacted at the above address.

STAUTORY 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2), 8(6) & 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

The Borrower/Co-Borrowers/guarantors/mortgagers are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along, with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before auction, failing which the auction of mortgaged property mentioned above shall take place and balance dues if any shall be recovered with interest/cost.

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Date: 28.04.2025 **Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd. (Secured Creditor)**

Note: Amount paid if any after issuance of SARFAESI Demand Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realization/settlement.

The Janatha Co-operative Bank Ltd.

H.O:#156, 8th Main, 17th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 055. Ph: 080- 23341972/ 2344 9450/ 2344 2648

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **The Janatha Co-Operative Bank Limited**, Bangalore under the Securitization and Re- Construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord.3, of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) & 13(12) with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a **Demand notice dated 05.10.2018** calling upon **Mr.Munirathnam G S/o Mr.Govindaswamy No.815, 1st 'C' Main Road, 4th Cross, L.N.Colony, Yashawanthpura, Bangalore – 560022.** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice dated **05.10.2018** being **Rs.16,00,000/-** (Rupees Sixteen Lakh only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under **Section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rule on this day the 22nd April 2025.**

The borrower in Particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of **The Janatha Co- Operative Bank Limited, # 156, 8th Main Road,17th Cross, Malleswaram West, Bangalore – 560055.** For an amount of **Rs.37,79,575/-** (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Five only) as on **31.03.2025** (If any amount has been paid will be considered at the time of final settlement) and further interest there on.

Property Schedule

All the piece and parcel of the Property No. BBMP/BDA No.18, 4th Cross, 2nd Main Road, B.K.Nagar, Yeshawanthapura, Bangalore and measuring **East to West 15 Feet and North to South 40 Feet** and totally measuring **600 Sq. Feet** and bounded on: East by : Eastern portion of the same Property; West by:Site No.9; North by: Site No.17; South by: Road

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **The Janatha Co-Operative Bank Limited**, Bangalore under the Securitization and Re- Construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord.3, of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) & 13(12) with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a **Demand notice dated 06.09.2022** calling upon **Mrs.Jayamma W/o Mr.Subramani N, No.100/16C(18), 9th Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore – 560068** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice dated **06.09.2022** being **Rs.7,64,028/- + Rs.3,49,470/- + Rs.8,10,851/- Totalling into Rs.19,49,349/-** (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty Nine only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.The borrower having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under **Section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rule on this day the 22nd April 2025.**

The borrower in Particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of **The Janatha Co- Operative Bank Limited, # 156, 8th Main Road,17th Cross, Malleswaram West, Bangalore – 560055.** For an amount of **Rs.10,75,910/- + Rs.4,64,542/- + Rs.6,12,849/- Totalling into Rs.21,53,301/-** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred One only) as on **21.04.2025** (If any amount has been paid will be considered at the time of final settlement) and further interest there on.

Property Schedule

Property bearing No.16/C, Old No.2/B, 9th Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, Bangalore situated in BBMP Ward No.65 (B T M Layout) (PID No.65-182-16/C) and Measuring **East to West 15 Feet and North to South 50 Feet** and bounded on: East by : Property of Smt.Vasanthamma; West by : Others Property;North by : Others Property; South by : 20 Feet Road

Date: 22.04.2025
Place: Bengaluru

For The Janatha Co-operative Bank Ltd.
sd./- Authorised officer

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

IDFC FIRST Bank

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	78611941	Loan Against Property	1. PAVITHRA V 2. VENKATAPPA T	09.04.2025	INR 5,54,071.49/-
Property Address : All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 107/96, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No.152900204101100040, According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, I. Gollahalli Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Marigowdanadoddi Village, Kanakapura Taluk And Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562119, Measuring East To West: 12.192 Mtrs., And North To South: 21.031200000000002 Mtrs., In Total Measuring 256.41 Sq. Meters, And Thereon Building Measuring 256.41 Sq. Meters, The Property Is **Bounded On The : East By :** House Of Guruvabovi **West By :** Site Of Thammanna Bovi **North By :** Road **South By :** Land Of Basavaraju					
2	100832978	Loan Against Property	1. SARASWATHI P 2. PRAKASHA K	29.03.2025	INR 5,43,230.27/-
Property Address : All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 422/362, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No.152900201201620134, According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Measuring East To West 4.8768 Mtrs. And North To South 15.8496 Mtrs., In Total Measuring 118.92 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 77.30 Sq. Meters, Situated At Horalagallu Village, T. Bekuppe Grama Panchayathi, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562117, And **Bounded As :- East By :** Property Of Uma Chunchaiah **West By :** Property Of Putteeramma **North By :** Road **South By :** Property Of Mahadevaiah					

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)**. Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Date : 28.04.2025
Place : BANGALORE

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GLOBAL ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY HITS NEW HIGHS AMID U.S. TARIFF

International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook warns economic uncertainty has surpassed levels seen during Covid-19

'AN ENVIRONMENT OF FEAR AND VOLATILITY'

The report attributes this uncertainty to the unpredictable nature of the US tariff policy under President Trump. Recent tariff hikes, including a significant increase to 145% on Chinese products, have created an environment of fear and volatility in financial markets, said the report released on Sunday in Barcelona

WORLD TRADE UNCERTAINTY INDEX UP

- IMF's world trade uncertainty index is seven times higher than in October 2024, with global GDP growth forecasts revised downward to 2.8% for 2025 and 3% for 2026
- Financial markets are experiencing instability similar to Covid-19, with US bond prices falling as investors begin to sell them

1.2%

IS THE THE EURO AREA'S GROWTH FORECAST FIGURE FOR 2026

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

■ HEADS-UP: CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF MEETS RAJNATH SINGH ■ NAVY CONDUCTS WAR DRILLS IN ARABIAN SEA

NIA takes over probe, forces ready to strike

MAYANK SINGH & MUKESH RANJAN
@ New Delhi

IN the wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives and the possibility of an Indian retaliation against Pakistan-backed terror groups, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday to brief him on key military decisions taken after the attack.

The Indian Navy on Sunday conducted successful multiple anti-ship firings, showcasing its readiness for long-range precision strikes. "Indian Navy stands combat ready, credible, and future-ready in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests anytime, anywhere, anyhow," the Navy said in a statement.

TERROR in KASHMIR

Diplomatic relations between the two countries have taken a hit, after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met on April 23 followed by India withdrawing its Defence, Navy, and Air Advisors from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, reducing the overall strength of the high commission to 30 from 55.

The Indus Waters Treaty, functional since 1960, has been suspended, and the only operational land border crossing at Attari has been shut down. Diplomatic ties with Pakistan have been downgraded, prompting Pakistan to shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspend all trade with India.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe into the Pahalgam terror attack, intensifying efforts to collect evidence and identify perpetrators. NIA teams, overseen by an Inspector General of Police, a Deputy Inspector General of Police and a Superintendent of Police, are examining eyewitnesses, analyzing videos, and scrutinizing entry and exit points to piece together the sequence of events. Intelligence agencies have traced the attack's digital footprints to safe houses in Muzaffarabad and Karachi, suggesting a clear Pakistan hand, sources said.

A local videographer, who was there to film reels for tourists in Baisaran, has now become one of the key witnesses for the NIA, as a senior official said, "The photographer in a bid to save his life climbed a tree, but he continued videographing the incidents that unfolded there."

Meanwhile, Sunday was the last day for Pakistanis having short-term visas in 12 categories to leave India. A long queue of vehicles was seen at the Attari-Wagah border crossing. As many as 537 Pakistani nationals left India since April 24 after the government revoked their visa, officials said.

Navy ships undertake multiple anti-ship firings in Arabian Sea to demonstrate readiness for long range strikes | PTI

China calls for restraint, backs impartial probe

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

AMID rising tensions between India and Pakistan, China on Sunday urged restraint by both sides. Beijing also backed Islamabad's demand for an 'impartial investigation' into the Pahalgam terror attack, adding that it is 'closely monitoring' the situation.

"Conflict is not in the fundamental interests of India and Pakistan, or conducive to regional peace and stability... Both countries should exercise restraint, meet each other halfway and promote the cooling of the situation," Chinese state media quoted Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi as saying during a phone call with Pakistan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday.

During the call, Dar briefed Wang on the latest developments and the latter offered support for Pakistan's "legitimate security concerns and its efforts to uphold sovereignty and security interests".

Reaffirming Beijing's support for Islamabad, Wang added, "China has always supported Pakistan in its resolute anti-terrorism actions."

CM's U-turn: Wage war if necessary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday made a U-turn on his Saturday's reported statement in Mysuru that there is no need to wage a war against Pakistan in retaliation to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people. He claimed that his statement was twisted, and suggested that India should not tolerate any threat to its unity and sovereignty and go to war against Pakistan if necessary.

"Yesterday in Mysuru, reporters asked me whether waging a war (against Pakistan) is necessary right now. I said the war is not necessary right now, but terrorism should be rooted out to ensure security to the people of the country. India is a land of Buddha, Basavanna and we the peace-loving people never wage a war unnecessarily, but if it is inevitable we must wage a war, be it against Pakistan or any other country that poses a threat to our unity and sovereignty. But my words were twisted to mean that there was no need for war against Pakistan," he said, addressing the government's Sadhana Samavesha at Devanahalli.

"In the Pahalgam attack, 26 tourists were killed and some years ago 40 soldiers were killed at Pulwama. If the Indian government had woken up to previous incidents and ensured adequate security, 26 tourists in Pahalgam would not have died. I vehemently condemn terrorism and extremism which we never tolerate," he stated.

"We know that when necessary, we will go ahead and protect our sovereignty by going to war. India has proven this on every occasion. Throughout history, we have maintained this vigilance and sovereignty. We will maintain it in the future as well," he said. P6

CM Siddaramaiah at Sadhana Samavesha in Devanahalli | EXPRESS

PM vows 'harshest punishment' for conspirators

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi has assured that the families of the victims of the recent Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir will receive justice, and the perpetrators and conspirators will face the harshest response ever imagined. Addressing the nation through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi expressed deep anguish over the attack that claimed the lives of at least 26 civilians, mostly tourists.

"The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism," Modi said, adding that the unity of the country and solidarity of its people is the biggest strength in the war against terrorism. He accused the terrorists and their masterminds of trying to push Kashmir back into turmoil, by executing a major conspiracy.

A BSF personnel guides Pakistani nationals arriving at Wagah border to cross over to their country on Sunday | PTI

"This attack in Pahalgam shows the desperation of the patrons of terrorism; displays their cowardice."

He noted that the attack was a setback to the progress and peace that was returning to Kashmir, where construction work had gained unprecedented pace, democracy was getting stronger, and new opportunities were being created for the youth.

The Prime Minister urged the nation to demonstrate strong willpower in the face of the ghastly terrorist attack on Tuesday, and said, "We need strong willpower ... Today the world is watching, after this terrorist attack, the whole country is speaking in one voice. The anger that the people of India feel is also being felt across the whole world."

Expect more 'torpedoes' in Donald Trump's next 100 days

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump, who completes 100 days in power on April 29, will spend his next 100 days of his presidency to seal trade and peace pacts, media reports quoting White House officials said.

After a series of 'loud' changes during his first 100 days, including social policy areas such as transgender rights, Trump may deploy some 'torpedoes in reserve' over the next three months, reports said quoting officials. This could mean more 'executive actions' that have become the hallmarks of Trump's first 100 days.

Sources said the administration was still working on a travel ban for citizens from multiple countries.

Since taking office on January 20, Trump has enacted sweeping changes on domestic and foreign policy priorities, upending the world economic order with tariffs, slashing the size of the government with job cuts, and scrapping diversity programmes.

He is expected to travel to Michigan this week for a rally marking the 100-day milestone.

EXPRESS READ

Russia launches drones against Ukraine

Kyiv: Russia launched a sweeping drone assault and airstrikes across Ukraine Sunday, killing at least four people, officials said. Three people died and four were wounded in airstrikes on Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, the regional prosecutor's office said P11

11 killed as vehicle ploughs into crowd in Vancouver

Vancouver: A man drove a vehicle into a crowd at a Filipino heritage festival in Canada's Vancouver, killing 11 people and injuring 20 others, authorities said Sunday. The vehicle entered the street at 8.14 pm on Saturday and struck people attending the Lapu Lapu Day festival, the Vancouver Police said P11

Now, ginger cultivators reach Dharwad, offer ₹1L per acre

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Hubballi/ Haveri

GINGER cultivation that has rendered thousands of acres in Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru and Hassan districts infertile is luring farmers of Dharwad and Haveri districts, thanks to lucrative offers by Kerala-based cultivators.

Farmers in North Karnataka districts who have had problems because of rising cost of agriculture and losses due to heavy rain last year, are opting to lease out their land to ginger cultivators from Kerala. They are happy that each acre of land gets Rs 1.15-1.18 lakh for an 18-month lease. Now, villagers are queuing up to sign leases with ginger farmers.

Basavaraj Konnur, a farmer who has leased his three-acre land to a ginger cultivator at Rs 1 lakh per acre, said, "We spent nearly Rs 30,000 per acre to cultivate maize last year. Normally, we reaped 20 quintal per acre, but this time we got just 5 quintals."

Basavraj Mundinamani, another farmer, said this year, they lost money in cultivating maize because of heavy rainfall. He was approached by a man from Kerala offering Rs 1.15 lakh per acre. As he has not been able to farm this year because of the loss, he gave away his land on lease. "All I know is his name is Ajay and the lease is for 18 months. I don't know which part of Kerala he is from or what happens to the land if ginger is cultivated," he said.

"Many have entered into such agreements. I need the money badly and got it in advance. Their only condition is that there should be a borewell. I got the borewell drilled at Rs 2.14 lakh. I will now earn not less than Rs 6.5 lakh," he said. P7

U.P. HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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IT CITY

SECTOR-15
VRINDAVAN SUB CITY
LUCKNOW, U.P.

REGISTRATION AMOUNT DEPOSIT PERIOD :- FROM 28.04.2025 TO 14.05.2025

DATE OF E-AUCTION:- 15.05.2025

Start-up Incubators · Artificial Intelligence · Cyber security · Data Center · IT/ITES

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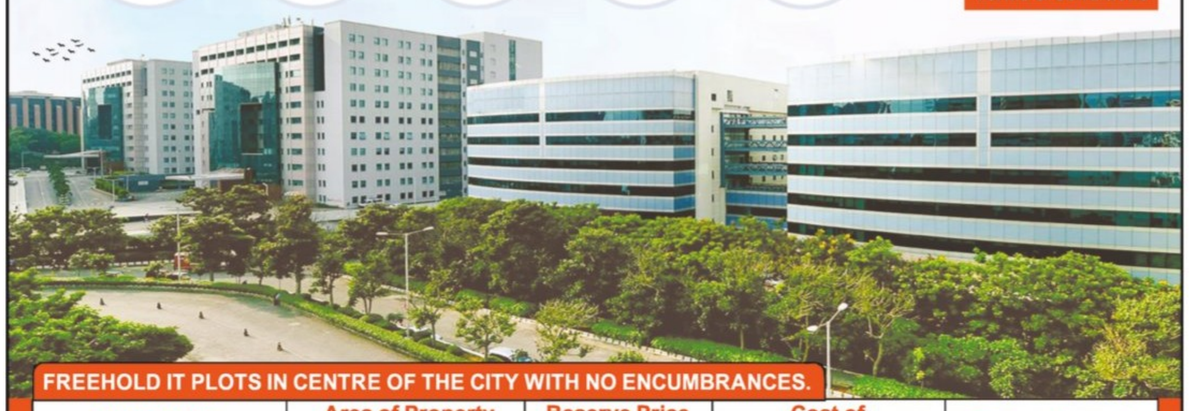

FREEHOLD IT PLOTS IN CENTRE OF THE CITY WITH NO ENCUMBRANCES.

Property No.	Area of Property (Sqm.)	Reserve Price (Per Sq.Mtr.)	Cost of Property*	Token Amount
15/ITP-02 (CORNER)	84,940.64	68,376.00	580.79 Cr. Approx*	58,07,90,120.00
15/ITP-03 (CORNER)	49,378.32	68,376.00	337.62 Cr. Approx*	33,76,29,200.83

* The price may vary as per the actual site area.*
* 50% of the Token amount must be paid at the time of Registration as Registration Amount & remaining 50% to be paid within one week of bid approval / acceptance.

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Registrations will be re-opened for new bidders & the E-auction will be held again. The action plan will be as follows:-
Registration amount deposit period :- 16.05.2025 to 04.06.2025 | E-auction Date :- 05.06.2025

FOR MORE ENQUIRIES CONTACT : (TOLL FREE) 1800-180-53333 | ☎ 0522-2236803 UPHousingBoard www.upavp.in

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 28.04.2025 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Uttarayana • Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Prathami 10.44 pm • Nakshatra: Bharani 11.16 am • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 22°C | MAX 34°C

FORECAST Cloudy

Sunrise 06.00 am
Sunset 06.34 pm
Moonrise 06.07 am
Moonset 07.15 pm

MP: Every road potholed, marathoners got injured

'Garbage piles, stinky corners, broken footpaths greet world athletes'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BANGALORE South MP Tejasvi Surya, who took part in the TCS 10K Run on Sunday, wrote an open letter to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath that roads in the city are pathetic and not a single stretch was free from potholes. He claimed that many runners stumbled and got injured due to the potholes.

Surya said he ran in the Mumbai Marathon two months ago and the experience was incredible. "And today (Sunday), it hurt so much to see our city like this," he lamented.

Stating that he has written the letter not only as an MP from Bengaluru, but as an angry and disappointed citizen and participant of the race on Sunday. He said most participants share the angst. "While it was a matter of great pride to see close to 40,000 people, including some of the world's best athletes, senior citizens, participate in the event, it was equally disappointing to witness the state of our city's roads and public infrastructure - right in the heart of the CBD (Central Business District)."

He said, "CBD roads, which are supposed to be the best roads in the city, are in an absolutely pathetic state - like the roads in the rest of the city. Not a single stretch was free of potholes. Many runners stumbled, sprained their ankles and some even got injured. Senior citizens struggled to even walk without risking a fall." He said the wheelchair participants had to be assisted throughout the route, not because of their condition but because of our city's unforgiving infrastructure.

MP Tejasvi Surya MLA Haris and DCM DK Shivakumar flag off the of TCS 10K Marathon on Sunday. Tejasvi's wife and singer Sivasri accompanied them | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Garbage dumps at multiple locations, stinking corners and broken footpaths painted a very poor image of Brand Bengaluru, he said. Pointing that many runners look forward to the race, he said, "They (runners) train, travel and participate with excitement. What we offered them was an obstacle race instead of a world-class experience. We were hosting a Gold Label event, certified by the World Athletics body with athletes from around the world. What image did we portray of our city? Is it so difficult to ensure a bare minimum - pothole-free, clean roads at least for one of the city's premier events? Every road of the city looks like a construction site - dusty, potholed and lifeless."

Holding Bengaluru development minister and BBMP commissioner directly responsible, answerable and accountable for this state of affairs, Surya said, "I urge you to take this matter seriously, not just for the sake of the TCS 10K or marathons, but for every citizen of Bengaluru who negotiates these roads daily."

AC e-buses to KIA await May-end launch

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

THE delay in setting up charging infrastructure at Kempegowda International Airport and the delay in supply of drivers by the private contract bagger have been postponing the launch of Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC) air-conditioned electric buses to the airport. The AC e-buses on the airport route, which should have been operational by now, is likely to be pushed to May-end.

BMTC's Chief Traffic Manager (Operations) GT Prabhakar Reddy told TNIE, "BMTC will be replacing the ageing Volvo fleet with AC e-buses. There is a delay in setting up charging infrastructure at the Bangalore airport premises. We were told it will take another 15 days. So we are hopeful of commencing operations of AC e-buses by May-end."

Attributing another reason for the delay in the launch, Reddy said the contractors are supplying drivers at a slower pace. "As per the wet-lease agreement, drivers have to be provided by the private firm only," he said.

BMTC, which has many electric buses in its fleet, did not have any air-conditioned ones. With an intention to add AC e-buses, the bus corporation signed an agreement with a private firm to provide buses on the GCC (Gross Cost Contract) model. As per the agreement, 320 e-buses will be handed over to BMTC for operations in a phased manner, and this will gradually replace the ageing Vayu Vajra (Volvo buses on the airport route) fleet. Under the GCC model, BMTC will lease the bus from the private firm Ohm Global Mobility. Ohm will provide buses along with charging infrastructure and drivers.

"We have operationalised 58 e-buses on other routes within the city, and they are performing well. We have set up charging infrastructure for this at two locations in the city," Reddy said.

BMTC will provide conductors and will be paying Rs 65.8 per kilometre to the firm.

KSCST to host state-level GIS workshop on district planning

Bengaluru: To strengthen data-driven governance using Geographic Information System technology, the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, at the Indian Institute of Science, will host a state-level GIS workshop on "Geospatial Applications for District Level Planning" on April 28 at the IISc. Organised as part of KSCST's Golden Jubilee celebrations, the workshop aims to build capacity among government officials in leveraging GIS tools for effective district-level planning and development. Over 800 officials from all 31 districts of Karnataka, with 25 to 30 representatives from each department, are expected to participate. KSCST, for more than three decades, pioneered the implementation of Natural Resources Data Management System Centres across the state. Established in collaboration with district administrations, these centres have strengthened local planning by integrating GIS technology with administrative decision-making. Experts from ISRO's Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Central Ground Water Board, Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre, and National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning will address the participants.

State to expand ragi health mix to anganwadi children

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

To provide essential nutritional support, the Women and Child Welfare Department is in discussions with the Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna Trust to expand the reach of the ragi health mix initiative. Currently, the Trust collaborates with the state government to supply the nutritious mix to government schools. The plan now is to extend this programme to anganwadi children, with a special focus on those affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Officials from the department have stated that the programme is expected to roll out by July.

Speaking to *TNIE*, a senior department official mentioned that the first phase of this initiative aims to cover nearly 4,000 children across districts such as Yadgir, Chamarajnagar, Bagalkot, Haveri, and Dharwad. "The department is also planning to expand the programme with an aim to cover all anganwadi centres in over a year. This expansion will significantly increase the reach of nutritional support across the state," the official added.

Sri Madhusudan Sai, Founder of the Sri Madhusudan Sai Global Humanitarian Mission, which runs the Trust, outlined a tentative menu aimed at improving nutrition for children. "It will include SaiSure Malt Multi-Nutrient Health Mix - a ragi and jaggery based supplement designed to be added to milk. This mix addresses essential macro and micronutrient needs and requires to be mixed with a glass of milk. Since the government is already providing milk, it will complement the government schemes, ensuring children receive the vital nutrients required for their growth and development," he said, adding that the trust is also planning to expand the item range with products like millet chikkis and laddoos.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during this year's budget had announced that 25% of the cost for the nutrition programme in government schools would be borne by the Karnataka government, with the trust covering the remaining 75%. However, the Women and Child Welfare Department has not yet decided on the funding of the upcoming programme.

B'luru Mango Utsava 25' to be held till May 4

ENS @Bengaluru

VASAVI Condiments, in association with the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited (KARSIRI), organised Mango Utsava 2025 at the National College Grounds in Basavanagudi on Sunday. The third edition of the Mango Utsava will be held till May 4.

The festival will showcase over 100 varieties of mango-based food items, featuring more than 100 food stalls, offering a wide range of dishes from street food to gourmet delicacies, vegan options, and desserts. Various mango-based delicacies from South India to Arabic cuisines, such as mango holige, mango kunafa and much more, will also be on display.

The festival will also host live cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs like Sihi Kahi Chandru. It also includes music concerts, IPL live screenings, and family-friendly activities, including workshops and a dedicated kids' zone.

KEA revises CET answer key, awards grace marks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER reviewing the objections raised by candidates, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) released the revised answer key for the Common Entrance Test (CET) 2025 on Sunday. Subject expert committees reviewed the feedback and revised the answer keys for Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. However, no changes were made to the Mathematics answer key. As part of the revision process, grace marks have been granted for a specific question in Physics paper.

Executive Director H Prasanna said that the updated answer keys were published after a thorough review of objections raised by the students regarding the initially released keys. "In Physics, one question has been awarded grace marks. In Chemistry, two questions and in Biology, one question, have more than one correct answers, including those published. However, no changes have been made in Mathematics," Prasanna clarified.

He also mentioned that the list of marks obtained by out-of-state and border area candidates in the Kannada language examination has been published on the official website. Prasanna stressed that in order to secure a seat through CET, candidates must secure at least 12 marks in the Kannada language exam, as per the rules.

Karnataka Deaf team clinches National T20 Cricket championship

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Deaf Cricket team won the VIII National T20 Cricket Championship for the Deaf held at Kadarpur, Haryana. Held from April 19 to 25, the Karnataka team in the Group B category, played 5 matches, finally badging as the winner of the championship. The championship was organised by the All-India Sports Council of the Deaf, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Haryana Sports Council of the Deaf.

The finale took place at Gurugram, Haryana on April 24. The final match was played between Karnataka and Punjab, in which Karnataka won by four runs. Karnataka, which batted first, scored 177 for seven wickets and Punjab, chasing the target, came close to victory, but fell short by five runs (173), losing seven wickets. Karnataka's skipper Subramani Singh scored the maximum runs (45), followed by vice-captain Souban Armar scoring 34 runs. In his four-over spell, Subramani Singh conceded 27 runs and claimed 2 wickets.

The members of the cricket team, who are from different parts of Karnataka, would practice by themselves in different private coaching centres and come together to practice once every week on the BLC ground. "The private coaching is very expensive, I had to pay Rs 1,000 per day for my son's practice sessions," shared Shiva Kumar, father of Kushal JS, one of the players.

The Karnataka team defeated Punjab by 5 runs at Kadarpur, Haryana on April 24

We worked very hard to win this title and we are very happy that our hard work finally paid off, shared the team members. The winning came at an expenditure of Rs 10,000 per player. The match along with travel, food, practice and other expenses is a huge amount of money, which often creates a financial struggle for the player and their families. "Poor people like us struggle financially," shares Shiva Kumar. But I ignore it to see the happiness on my son's face," he adds.

"We wish the government could fund us with sufficient money for the games, as they are just like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They too play for their homeland, finally winning the championship," Kumar concludes.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

28TH April : Pisces is my sign of the day - and it's one of my favourite signs. According to the great psychologist, Carl Jung, the entire history of the world for the last two-thousand years has been dominated by what he called the Age of Pisces. Mind you, I don't think Pisceans would want to take responsibility for a great deal that's passed for civilisation over that time!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
A set of controversial lunar alignments is bound to make you aware of differences of approach at work. You may, in point of fact, become embroiled in an argument with colleagues yourself, unless you take careful evasive action. Give a partner the benefit of the doubt, even if it goes against the grain.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Check up on the financial situation, and don't hang around if family members need putting right about who pays for what. You probably won't reach a lasting agreement, but that shouldn't stop you arguing your corner. You could do well in interviews and discussions at work, by the way.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Venus' curious motion is taking you back to the past, evoking memories of former loves. In many respects that's no bad thing, although there are certain indications that you'll begin the day on the wrong foot. You must realise that nothing is final and that everything can be changed.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's a day for differences of opinion, and that goes for all twelve signs. Yet in your case it does seem very likely that you won't really understand what's being said, so you may be well advised to bide your time. Patience is an admirable virtue.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The Sun and Moon are gradually moving towards another enthusiastic alignment. Therefore, when you come to look at today's arrangements and offers, you should bear in mind that your ideas, thoughts and actions may not make sense for another few days.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Mercury, your planetary ruler, is sowing the seeds for some truly amazing ideas and meetings, but you will have to put the brakes on within a few days. If you now insist on carrying your ideas to their logical conclusion, you may end up in the middle of nowhere!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Strangely enough, a current development may be so secret that not even you know what's going on. Indeed, it looks as if you are about to be overwhelmed by forgetfulness! You may entertain yourself by associating with unusual people and visiting new places.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Do spare a little time to sort out all those niggling cash questions, especially if other people are involved. Only when the Moon settles down next week will a public or professional problem be solved. Until then you may have to make do with half an answer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The Moon's various challenges to your sign will bring criticisms from partners and people you live with. This could be exceedingly helpful for, although it may be annoying when other people claim to know best, the fact is that they may indeed be right!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Do keep yourself busy, but don't lose sight of the larger picture. The events and questions which concern you at work may be downright trivial compared with the wider ethical and moral issues. Success will count for little if you alienate partners in the process.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Now that a financial arrangement is going into reverse you must be very wary of seductive promises and cast-iron guarantees. There is very little to gain from taking risks today, and nothing to be said for taking loved ones' lasting support for granted.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Partnership is everything. Yet you will have to be very patient from now and for the next three weeks, for it looks likely that someone will try to duck out of a commitment. The fact that they may have very good reasons won't make their behaviour any less irritating.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

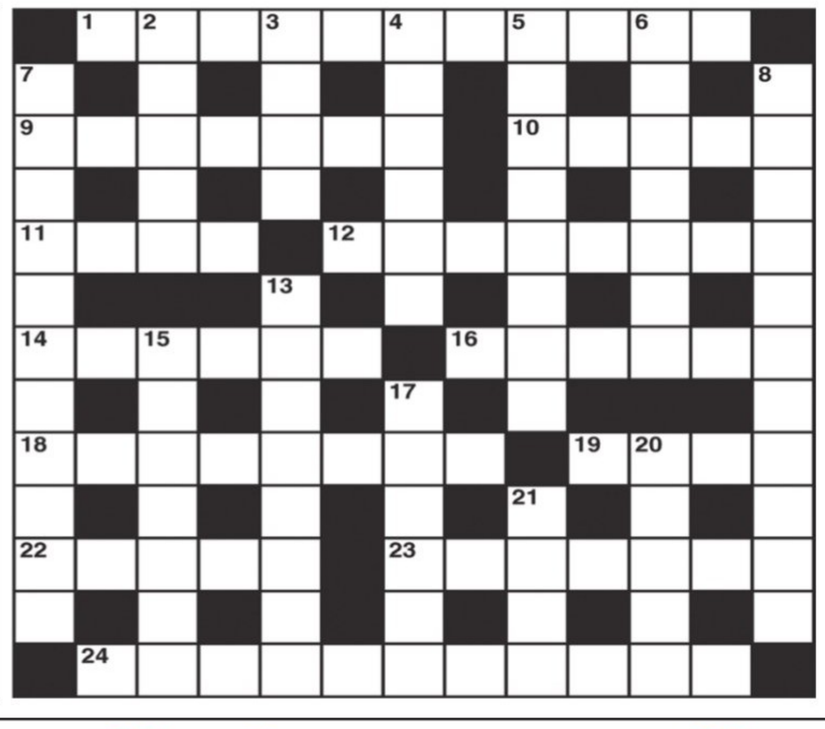
	5				6		3	9
4		6		8				
					7			6
5		7	4			1		
1		2	5	3	8	9		7
		4			1	2		8
8			1					
				9		3		1
9	4		7				2	

1	3	6	7	8	9	2	4	5
5	9	4	1	3	2	8	7	6
7	2	8	5	6	4	3	1	9
9	7	3	8	1	5	6	2	4
6	4	1	3	2	7	9	5	8
8	5	2	4	9	6	1	3	7
4	8	9	2	7	3	5	6	1
2	1	5	6	4	8	7	9	3
3	6	7	9	5	1	4	8	2

SU DO KU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Shoplifters are in favour of these stores (4-7)
9 Conclude there's no place for the damned (7)
10 Record some film music (5)
11 Suspend for a mild expletive (4)
12 Result of division not quite correct (8)
14 Some trainee dedicated to work required (6)
16 It's becoming a type of fraction (6)
18 Tangled up the thread we twisted in coils (8)
19 Russian agreement to Royal Navy repair (4)
22 Minimal green space by the way (5)
23 One wrong impression put right (7)
24 Being wild I scare other drivers (11)

DOWN

2 Spritely - that's the Spanish and French conclusion (5)
3 Food market say (4)
4 Book a flight (6)
5 They call on us but not for help (8)
6 Big shot in the film world? (5-2)
7 Prayer for good health and where to make it? (7,4)
8 Religious work that involves one more duty (11)
13 He's willing to let others succeed (8)
15 It clears one's view of the eastern trees (7)
17 The ore is converted to this (6)
20 The whole of his work is a part (5)
21 Release when no charge is made (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Addled, 4 Swelling, 9 Samson, 10 Adherent, 12 Ring, 13 Limit, 14 Lime, 17 Searchlights, 20 Library books, 23 Upas, 24 Chase, 25 Tomb, 28 Enthrall, 29 Damsel, 30 Bigamist, 31 Paella.

Down: 1 Abstruse, 2 Demoniac, 3 Eton, 5 Wedding dress, 6 Lieu, 7 Iberia, 8 Gutter, 11 Killer whales, 15 Acrid, 16 Stabs, 18 Colossal, 19 Isabella, 21 Superb, 22 Ragtag, 26 Drum, 27 Gala.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

LTETI

RSYOR

OHCOES

NEENLK

After the show, what do you say we all go bowling?
Yeah! I feel some strikes coming on!
First, let's get ready to bring this place down!
I've got my ball in my car.
THE BAND PLANNED TO GO BOWLING AFTER THEIR GIG BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CHAOS LUCKY FASTEN EASILY
Answer: The police officer was being methodical, but the thief wanted to — CUT TO THE CHASE

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A minor fire broke out in the process shop of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Aircraft Division on Saturday night. The company said in a statement that the fire was quickly contained by HAL's fire services personnel. According to an official press release by the defence PSU, no injuries or major damages were reported. The release said there will be no impact on the production activities of the Division

Kasturirangan cremated with full state honours

Guv Gehlot, Siddaramaiah, Union ministers pay their respects

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, 84, was cremated with full state honours on Sunday.

Dr Kasturirangan passed away at his residence in Bengaluru on April 25. His mortal remains were kept at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), where dignitaries including Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Union Ministers, eminent scientists, and the general public gathered to pay their respects. The former ISRO chief is survived by his sons, Rajesh Rangan and Sanjay Rangan, who shared their personal memories of him.

"He was not just a loving and caring father but also a huge motivator for my brother and me. Despite his demanding schedule, he found a way to balance work and family. My mother did most of the caregiving, but dad was the one who would step in whenever she needed us to do something," Rajesh told The New Indian Express.

"Dad was always very considerate, though sometimes he had to be reminded he was not just the director of ISRO, but also our father," Rajesh

recalled.

Sanjay shared that his father was strict and had high standards, particularly when it came to academics and future planning.

"He was very family-oriented, with a strong sense of tradition. He knew the importance of education and foresaw how engineering would be a key field in the future. He always kept himself updated with the changing times, especially when it came to modern-day education. But beyond his professional success, it was his relationships and the way he built connections that stood out. Those connections were his greatest asset, and his affection for people is what truly made him special," Sanjay said.

'He lost his voice, recovered, remained resilient'

Director of Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium BR Guruprasad, who was previously with ISRO, recalled Dr Kasturirangan's personal support. In 2009, Dr Kasturirangan, then a member of the Planning Commission, motivated Guruprasad to pursue a doctorate and promised to guide him. Although Guruprasad could not meet him often owing to Dr Kasturirangan's busy schedule, the latter directed him to the National Institute of Advanced Studies, ensuring he had the support needed. "Until I defended my thesis, I had his rock solid support," said Guruprasad, adding that, "My doctorate is his doctorate."

Dr K Kasturirangan's resilience was evident even during severe health challenges. He endured a serious health setback that caused him to lose his voice. Yet, few were aware of this struggle as he made a full recovery and continued to serve, former ISRO chairman AS Kiran Kumar recalled. Their professional association spanned nearly five decades, beginning when Kiran joined ISRO in 1975, working on the Satellite for Earth Observation programme, where Dr Kasturirangan was the project director. Over the years, Kiran witnessed Dr Kasturirangan's rise from project director to chairman and his continued contributions to ISRO and beyond.

Former ISRO chairman Dr K Kasturirangan's sons Sanjay Rangan and Rajesh Rangan at the cremation in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

His immense contributions will be remembered: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 121st episode of his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', also paid tribute to the former ISRO Chairman. "Two days ago, we lost Dr K Kasturirangan, one of the country's greatest scientists. In every meeting with him, we discussed topics like the potential of Indian youth, modern education, and space science. His immense contributions to science, education, and India's space program will always be remembered," Modi said.

As one of the world's foremost scientists and a former Chairman of the ISRO, his impact was immense — DyCM DK Shivakumar

Dr Kasturirangan was a renowned scientist whose significant contributions to space science and education are unmatched. As the long-serving Chairman of ISRO, he earned numerous accolades, including the State Rajyotsava Award, and was recognised nationally

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka

Dr Kasturirangan was not only a brilliant scientist but also a remarkable human being. Beyond his leadership at ISRO, he served as a Rajya Sabha MP, was a member of the Planning Commission, and headed the Karnataka Knowledge Commission. He was also entrusted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the important task of shaping the National Education Policy

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister

Ricky Rai murder bid: Anuradha records statement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ANURADHA, the second wife of former don late Muthappa Rai, appeared before Bidadi police and recorded her statement in connection with the murder attempt on Ricky Rai, Muthappa Rai's son.

Anuradha was named accused in the FIR registered by Bidadi police. Ricky Rai, 35, survived a murder attempt after shots were fired at his car in Bidadi,on the outskirts of Bengaluru,on April 19.

Police said Anuradha appeared before the investigation officer (IO) with relevant documents and recorded her statements at 11am Sunday. Police interrogated her for more than four hours.

Speaking to reporters, Anuradha said, "I have no connection with the case. Still, I don't know why a complaint was registered against me. I have provided all the necessary information to police during interrogation." She clarified that the land dispute case between Ricky and her, which was pending before court, was amicably settled. "I saw Ricky when he came to court to sign the settlement papers last October. Since then, I have had no contact with him," she said.

As of now, Vittal Monappa, who was working with Ricky, has been arrested in connection with the incident. Investigation is under way to ascertain the involvement of others in the crime and the motive for the same.

Muthappa Rai's first wife, Rekha Rai, died in 2013. Later, Rai married Anuradha. After Rai died in 2020, a property dispute arose between Rai's children and Anuradha, who approached court.

GETTING READY

An artist gives a fresh coat of paint to a statue of Basaveshwara, ahead of Basava Jayanti on April 30 at Chalukya Circle in Bengaluru on Sunday| NAGARAJA GADEKAL

BWSSB, Bescom to help BBMP in acting against building bylaw violators

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

BWSSB and Bescom together are set to crack the whip against building bylaw violators and support BBMP in disciplining such property owners.

After the Babusab building collapse in which nine persons were killed on October 22, 2024, the Lokayukta had directed the agencies to disconnect power and sewage connections to under-construction buildings with severe violations.

"The tragedy in North Bengaluru that took nine lives last October led to Bescom issuing a circular on November 28, 2024 to disconnect power, both temporary and permanent, to a building in violation after a seven-day notice by the municipality. This order barely took root despite a strict mandate to local officials," said Rajagopalan R, Convenor, Bengaluru Coalition.

The Supreme Court has also passed an order with 12 specific directions to chief secretaries of all states and registrars of all high courts, making it clear that no utility services should be provided without Completion and Occupancy certificates.

"Any official who does not promptly comply with the SC order will be held in contempt and prosecuted as per local law. The Bescom after several requests finally issued a circular on 4/4/25, mandating the Commencement Certificate and Occupancy Certificate (CC/OC) requirements for service connection and also directed local offices to promptly comply with BBMP requests," Rajagopalan said.

BBMP has to crack the whip on buildings with setback violations and those which have unauthorised floors. In many cases, the building has no plan sanction and they just come up.

Senior BWSSB official

A top BWSSB official said it will also issue a similar circular mandating CC/OC from BBMP for water and sewage connections. "BBMP has to crack the whip on buildings with setback violations and those which have unauthorised floors that are against BBMP Act 2020. In many cases, the building has no plan sanction and they just come up. If BBMP gives a notice and asks us to disconnect connections, we will do it. In case BBMP also fails to do so, before giving connections, we will ask the owners to produce the CC/OC," said a senior BWSSB official.

Objecting to littering: Three held for assaulting professor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Kumaraswamy Layout police arrested three individuals for allegedly assaulting a private engineering college professor who confronted them for throwing garbage and glass waste on the road. The incident occurred near JHBCS Layout on April 21.

The accused have been identified as Bhanu Prasad (26) and Sharath (23), both delivery agents, and Amruth Kumar (24), an auto-rickshaw driver.

According to the police, the trio threw garbage and glass pieces onto the road while travelling in an autorickshaw. Gupta, a professor who was on a two-wheeler, questioned them about the littering.

Enraged by the confrontation, the group allegedly followed and assaulted him before fleeing the scene.

Gupta sought medical treatment and later filed a complaint with the police. Based on his complaint, a case was registered. After analysing CCTV footage and other technical evidence, the trio were arrested and released on bail.

EXPRESS READ

TWO KING COBRAS RESCUED FROM OPEN WELL IN KUMTA

KUMTA (UTTARA KANNADA): Two king cobras, that fell into a well, were rescued by snake expert Pawan Naik at Khandagara village in Kumta taluk of Uttara Kannada district on Sunday. After receiving a distress call, Naik and his team rushed to the villager's house belonging to Vinayak Patgar. They found two huge cobras, not less than 11 feet in length, in the well water. During the process, Naik entered the well and managed to rescue one of the two snakes in a sack within 30 minutes. However, it took not less than three hours to rescue the other king cobra. Onlookers captured the entire rescue operation on their mobile phones and uploaded them on social media which went viral. The snakes will be released into the wild.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. MOHAMMED NIYAMATHULLA @ MUNNA** is intending to purchase the property bearing Sy. No. 190/2 measuring to an extent of 00 - 08 Guntas and Sy. No. 190/5 measuring to an extent of 00 12 Guntas **which is totally measuring 00 - 20 Guntas** of **Chikkanagamangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk** from **Mrs. SHOBHA M AND Ms. SUSHMASHREE H S**. And now entered into an Memorandum of Understanding with the above owners **Mrs. SHOBHA M AND Ms. SUSHMASHREE H S.** If any claims, queries, litigations are there or any one claiming over the same with respect to the aforesaid property Please feel free to contact and discuss about the same With **Mr. Mohammed Niyamathulla @ Munna** Mob No. 9538200521 or their **Advocate M. Vasanth Kumar** 9900250398, 7618769398 within 15 days from the date of this publication.

M. Vasanth Kumar, Advocate
No. 25, "Skandashree Nilaya", 3rd Cross, Mookambika Layout, Mylasandra, Kengeri, Bangalore - 59. Date : 26.04.2025

Dakshina Kannada Co-operative Milk Producer's Union Limited
Mangalore Dairy Premises, Kulshekar, Mangalore- 575 005

No:DKMU/ADMN/526/2025-26 Date: 23-04-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(KPPP OF GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA)

Dakshina Kannada Co-operative Milk Producer's Union, invites tender through KPP Portal directly from IRDA approved Insurance Companies to provide Tailor Made Family Floater Group Mediclaim Insurance Policy to its employees and their dependent family, Member of Board and their dependent spouse and Retired employees and their dependent spouse. Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal Web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Description	No of Employees	No of Retired Employees	No of Board Member	EMD Amount
1.	Tailor Made Family Floater Group Mediclaim Insurance Policy for the period of one year from 06-06-2025 to 05-06-2026	250	121	16	1000=00

Last date for submission of Tender : 15-05-2025 4.00 p.m.
Date of opening of Technical Tender : 17-05-2025 10.00 A.M

The Managing Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Further details contact help desk Phone **8046010000 OR 8068948777**
e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com.

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The Janatha Co-operative Bank Ltd.
H.O:#156, 8th Main, 17th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080- 23341972/ 2344 9450/ 2344 2648

NOTICE

Ref No: JCB : CEO/423/2024-25 Date :16.01.2025

To:
Mrs. Kalavathi M S/o Mr. Markonda Reddy G
No.1069/70, 1st Floor, 11th Cross, Above Jyothi Ply Wood,
Gokul opposite M S Ramaiah College Bus-Stop,
Bangalore – 560054
Sir,

Sub: NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002.

1.You have availed immovable property loan of (**Rs.1,15,00,000/-**) **(Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lakh only) on 06.03.2018 and later on your loan account has been restructured for Rs.1,15,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lakh Fifty Thousand only) on 29.12.2021, as per your request and RBI guidelines** from the Janatha Co- operative bank Limited 17th Cross, 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560055 agreeing to repay the said loans together with interest and other incidental charges at the rate of 13.5% P.A and overdue interest at the rate of 2% p.a of such rates as may be determined within a period of **150 monthly instalments** commencing from **29.01.2022 as per agreement executed by you on 29.12.2021 ,** and in case you fail to pay the monthly instalments consecutively for 91 days the entire loan amount becomes due and Payable.

2.Towards repayment of the debt you have created Security/Mortgage by way of Deposit of title deeds creating security in respect of immovable Property bearing **No.14, Chikkamaranahalli, Survey No.22/2, Bangalore Situated in BBMP Ward No.100 (Sanjaya Nagar) (PID No.100-538-14)** and measuring **East to West (49+33)/2 Feet** and **North to South (40+42)/2 Feet** more fully described in the schedule in favour of the Bank You have executed **Memorandum of Deposit of Title deeds (registered) on 05.03.2018 On Demand Promissory Note on 06.03.2018 and Demand Promissory Note on 29.12.2021**

3.You are highly irregular in repayment of the Principal and interest due and you have committed default in payment of more than 3 instalments (91 days) consecutively and therefore the entire loan amount hasbecome due and payable. The debt has been classified as Non – Performing Asset **on 30.07.2024** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of Principal debt and interest thereon.

4.The total amount due to the Bank on the above loan as **on 31.12.2024 is Rs.1,09,71,004/-** (Rupees One Crore Nine Lakh Seventy One thousand Four only) which includes a sum of **Rs.25,000/-** (Rupees Twenty five thousand only) towards legal fee and other expected expenses for proceeding under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. We are enclosing copy of the pass sheet of your **loan account No (NML.200218200000105) / RL.200218190000025**

5.Despite Our repeated reminders you have failed to clear the liability and therefore we are hereby issuing notice to you under sec 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 calling upon you to discharge your above mentioned liability by clearing the entire loan amount within sixty days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which as a securitisation Credit we shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under sec 13 (4) of the above act .

6.In case you fail to discharge your liability in terms of this notice we shall exercise all or any of the rights conferred under section 13 (14) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 including sale of the above acquired property.

7.You are hereby restrained from dealings with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever except with our prior written consent as per sec 13 (3) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

8.Objections if any to this notice should be communicated to the Bank within the Prescribed time Period.

9.This is without Prejudice to any other remedies available to the Bank.

'B' SCHEDULE

Property BBMP/BDA No.14, Chikkamaranahalli, Survey No.22/2, Bangalore Situated in BBMP Ward No.100 (Sanjaya Nagar) (PID No.100-538-14) and measuring East to West (49+33)/2 Feet and North to South (40+42)/2 Feet and boundedMÉÀ: East by: Remainiung Property of Chandrappa M H; West by: Road; North by: Property of Rangegowda; South by: Property of Chandrappa.

For The Janatha Co-op. Bank Ltd.,
sd./-Authorized Officer

Opposing the state government's proposal to spend Rs 92 crore on the Cauvery aarthi programme and develop an amusement park at KRS reservoir, the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha has decided to hold a protest in Mandya on May 7

PROUD OF HERITAGE? PROTECT IT

Archaeological sites are often misused and abused. Besides officials and conservationists, locals have a key role to play in preserving small pieces of history

BIG PICTURE

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WHILE the state and Central governments are working to identify and protect heritage sites in Karnataka, the responsibility of the people, especially locals, is much bigger. Experts echo the lack of sense of ownership, respect and pride among people and government officials alike.

Recently, after a video went viral showing a meat stall at the tomb of Krishnadevaraya, the legendary ruler of the Vijayanagar dynasty, in Anegundi, the Department of Archaeology Museum and Heritage (DAMH) filed a complaint against the accused. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) says the site is a state-protected monument. Then, how was this allowed to happen?

Madhusudhan KR, researcher and member of the Karnataka Itihasa Academy, says, "The incident came to light after videos taken by tourists went viral. A similar incident was reported from Doddaballapur taluk in Bengaluru Rural, where a 5th century Ganga dynasty stone inscription went missing, during construction of a temple's compound wall. This cannot continue. State and national heritage should be protected."

A bigger concern is of sites being disrespected, destroyed, defaced and damaged. "It all started with the cinema industry, which romanticized the etching of messages in stone. Now people have immortalized it. Some go to heritage sites with cameras, some others with chisels and paint. Couples started writing messages, drawing graffiti and symbols. Just imagine, you are visiting a tombstone or a hero stone or fort, and you are greeted with a painted love note. Not just governments, even locals should come forward and take stern action to control the menace to bring such people to book. In some places, people spit on fort walls, urinate or throw food items. This is seen in areas outside fort walls and spaces surrounding them," said an ASI official, seeking anonymity.

Although government departments blame manpower and funds shortage for their inability to protect the sites, experts suggest the adoption of alternatives. "Citizens should be involved and made watchdogs. They should be made aware of the sites and their importance, made partners in protection and offered incentives for protecting them. ASI and DAMH officials should also work with panchayats. In a district, if 30 per cent of sites are protected, 20 per cent are on the verge of being lost and 50 per cent have already been lost. With this being the state of affairs, a lot more needs to be done," says Madhusudhan.

Experts say the government should now shift its focus from the already popular heritage sites of Hampi, Belur, Halebidu, Pattadakal, Aihole and Badami to lesser known destinations. But so far, it's only been lip service.

Dr Jayasimha P, senior research fellow, Mythic Society, says the Brahmagiri region near Chitradurga is much richer and needs urgent attention. The region gains importance as around 100 years ago, Dr MH Krishna from Mysore Archaeology, under the then kings, had said Brahmagiri holds the key to questions of human evolution. Government departments are carrying out excavation work and have found artifacts older than the Paleolithic period. Already, many important artifacts have been lost over time, and people know very little about this place. Similarly, there is a 1,100-year-old stone inscription in the Panchalingeshwara Temple in Begur temple, near Electronics City, which is named 'Bengalura'.

Another expert working with ASI says, requesting anonymity, that while the Central government and other states are finding artifacts and heritage structures to display the glory of King Ashoka's Mauryan Empire, Karnataka is doing nothing. "There are stone inscriptions of King Ashoka in Koppal, Maski, Brahmagiri and near Chitradurga. These show that his empire touched Karnataka and he had trade relations here. They need to be protected now, before it is too late, the expert says, adding that not just sites, even murals and ecological heritage need protection.

"In Lal Bagh (Bengaluru), the mango trees planted by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan are well-protected. But the same ecology in Srirangapatna is ignored. Similar is the case with the Nallur Tamarind Grove, which is a biodiversity site now. Over time, the number of trees has reduced. There are also many heritage banyan trees on village roads, which are becoming highways now. Many heritage doors, walls and windows of heritage properties, like in Lakkundi, are being lost to urbanization," the expert points out.

DAMH officials admit that many stone inscriptions, especially hero stones, have been lost to urbanization. "People destroy the stones by using granite for foundation or in residential/commercial construction. Many such stones are being found on the outskirts of Bengaluru, Tumkuru, Ramanagara, Kolar and surrounding areas, but are being lost because of lack of knowledge about them," the official adds.

Experts say the way ahead to protect heritage sites is for the government to get aggressive and involve people. They cite Tamil Nadu's example of not just using archaeology to build narratives, but also as assets. This year, there are 22 excavations taking place in Tamil Nadu, but only two in Karnataka. "Excavations in Tamil Nadu are being done in the open for people to see and ask questions. There is a guide stationed at the site to explain the works and the site. There is a people connection established there. A similar method is also adopted in Vadnagar in Gujarat, where guides tell stories during the excavations. An emotional link with people is established, which is lacking here. In Karnataka, where DAMH has started excavation works in Firozabad, near Kalaburgi – South India's first hammam (communal bath space) and water system – the people connect is missing," an expert says.

Meera Iyer, convener, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), says a lack of awareness and appreciation among people is the reason for heritage sites being in a poor condition. It is seen that wherever people realize the importance of sites and appreciate them, they are protected. The government should also be more careful in protecting them and encourage people to come forward to do so. The government should also be more judicious in utilizing funds and resources. People should also take an interest in finding out what's around them and its importance.

OFFICIAL SPEAK

We are surveying every taluk and identifying sites that need to be protected. So far, 119 taluks have been surveyed and 125 taluks will be surveyed this fiscal. The antiquities found in each place are being geo-tagged and protected on the ground. Awareness programmes are being conducted among school and college students, and 300 heritage clubs have been formed to take up protection measures

— Devaraju K, Commissioner, DAMH

People lack a sense of belonging to the site or place, due to which many historic sites get damaged. We have come across instances where aged people in rural areas and among tribals are not aware of their age, but know the history and age of the site in their neighbourhood. The same should be everywhere. The ASI has staff constraints and work is being done to employ locals to protect sites. The Central government, in the recent archaeology department meeting with state heads, said stern action will be taken if sites are not protected

-- Nandini Bhattacharya Sahu, ASI spokesperson

GROUND ZERO SITUATION

UDUPI
Story of neglect

Prof T Murugeshi, retired Associate Professor, Ancient History and Archaeology, MSRS College, Shirva, Udupi district, says Karnataka's coastal region has many sites. But the ASI and DAMH have totally neglected coastal Karnataka with respect to documentation, survey, protection and conservation. Only a handful of sites in this region are protected. No Members of Parliament, MLAs or district authorities are concerned about the rich cultural heritage of this region. Important rock art sites like Buddhanajeddu, Gavali and Avalakki Pare in Udupi district, Karur, Sonda in Uttara Kannada district and Pandavarakallu near Belthangady in Dakshina Kannada, speak of the unknown prehistory of coastal Karnataka but the authorities are totally blind, Murugeshi says.

BELAGAVI
A fort in ruins

The situation in Belagavi is no different. Experts and locals point out that one of the most famous and historic forts – Kittur Fort – is in ruins. The state government has made plans to revive it and organise Kittur Utsav as an annual affair. They say the government should also give importance to lesser-known sites, including the Bhootanath Temple Complex at Killa Torgal, and ancient Ratta temples in Hooli, Degaon and Gokak, which now lie neglected.

GADAG
People unaware of importance

While Gadag is known for the famous Lakkundi temple, history expert AD Kattimani from Gadag says many historic monuments need to be saved as people in rural areas still don't know their importance. The local administration should come forward to create awareness.

Even as excavations have started in Lakkundi and surrounding areas, there are no State or Central government officials on the ground to disseminate information on the same, say experts, adding that it is important, especially when local residents are coming forward and handing over inscriptions and monuments found inside their houses and which they worshipped.

Experts say some places inside Gadag town need more vigilance as last December, some miscreants defaced a side wall of Jodu Kalasa in Sudi village. People continue to misuse historic monuments.

KALABURAGI
Tombs damaged

Although there are over 200 historical monuments, only some are protected by ASI and DAMH sites. Many sites are encroached or neglected due to different reasons, including the Bahamani Fort and Haft Gumbaz. Efforts of the district administration to evict families living in Kalaburagi Fort have not yielded results. Miscreants have damaged some tombs situated in Haft Gumbaz premises in search of hidden treasures. There is also lack of proper security at the 16 sites protected by DAMH. Activist Lakshmikanth says many monuments are dilapidated and unrepaired over years. Some monuments have become a place for illegal activities. Historian Shambhuling Vani urges the government to take steps to protect the monuments and make them attractive tourist spots by providing necessary facilities.

HASSAN
No protection for 50 sites

While 45 monuments (24 by DAMH and 21 by ASI) belonging to the Hoysala dynasty are protected, over 50 lie neglected. Experts say the government is showing no signs of protecting the others, including Jain Basadis, inscriptions unearthed in Belur and Channarayapatna, highlighting the works of Chandragupta Mourya and the Chola dynasty. Historian Narasimha Murthy says the need of the hour is to conserve every monument without discrimination. The state and ASI should come up with special programmes to protect monuments for future generations.

VIJAYAPURA
Home to 81 monuments

According to the ASI, Vijayapura city alone has 81 protected monuments, the second highest in India after Delhi. Yet, despite having so many ancient and historically significant monuments, only a few are protected by ASI.

While some monuments, such as Gol Gumbaz, Ibrahim Roza, Bara Kaman, Upari Burj and Malik-ek-Maidan, are well maintained by ASI, many others remain neglected, including the fort wall surrounding the city. It has been damaged at many places and even illegally occupied by people to build homes.

An ASI official questions the lack of funds for upkeep and maintenance to protect and promote several monuments. "We can issue notices to residents, but we cannot remove them from ASI property as it is tricky. We don't get the required support from local authorities to remove encroachments," says the ASI official.

(Inputs from: Prakash Samaga/ Udupi; Tushar A Majukar/ Belagavi; Raghu Koppar/ Gadag; Ramakrishna Badsheshi / Kalaburagi; BR Udaya Kumar / Hassan; Firoz Rozindar / Vijayapura)

STATE PROTECTED SITES 800

UNPROTECTED SITES IDENTIFIED BY STATE GOVERNMENT 25,000

ASI PROTECTED SITES IN KARNATAKA: **506** (129 in Bengaluru Circle, **282** in Dharwad Circle, **95** in Hampi Circle)

2 years in power: Siddu govt launches series of rallies

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DCM DK Shivakumar and their cabinet colleagues at the launch of 'Sadhana Samavesha' rallies near Devanahalli on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

AHEAD of the completion of two years in office, the Congress government, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Sunday launched a series of 'Sadhana Samavesha' rallies at Bhyradenahalli near Devanahalli in Bengaluru rural district to showcase its achievements after coming to power.

Addressing the rally, Siddaramaiah stressed that Rs 80,000 crore has been spent for people in two years in the form of the five guarantees.

The region-wise rallies were apparently planned as per the behest of the party high command to nullify the anti-incumbency and stress that the government is pro-people.

Digital title deeds will be distributed to 1 lakh families living in hamlets, such as Lambanis, who live in tandas, and Kadugollas in hattis, giving them revenue village status, at a mega rally slated to be held in Hosapete on May 20, marking the Siddaramaiah regime's two years.

The CM, DCM D K Shivakumar and their cabinet colleagues are likely to take part in it. According to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, 3,614 habitats have been identified for the revenue village status and notification has been issued against 3,221, covering 1.42 lakh families.

On April 29, the revenue department will launch the 'bhusuraksha' scheme to give people access to the digitalised land documents. Subsequently, Siddaramaiah is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for 17 'praja soudha' (taluk offices) in Kalyana Karnataka region. On May 16, he will inaugurate the 'zilla soudha' (deputy commissioner's office) in Mangaluru where 'phodi' repair, sub division of agricultural land and documents will be given to around 10,000 farmers.

Byre Gowda admitted that the process of digitisation of revenue department records is part of the Centre's mandate, but in Karnataka, the department has gone a step ahead by taking up the scanning of documents to preserve them permanently.

Byre Gowda held a series of review meetings with top bureaucrats to send out a message that the revenue department is open to reforms and is with the people, observed political analysts.

We must forge unwavering internal unity: CM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"UPROOTING terrorism and providing adequate protection to every Indian is our priority at this moment. There is no question of compromising on that," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

Taking to X, he said: "Today, India stands at a highly sensitive crossroads. If we are to face external enemies, we must first forge unwavering internal unity. Pakistan today is a crumbling, bankrupt state, sick and weakened. They have little left to lose. In contrast, India is rising - a growing superpower in the world order - and hence, we must tread with wisdom and caution."

Siddaramaiah said, "At this crucial moment, nations across the world have come out in strong condemnation of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, standing firmly with India. We must seize this unprecedented global support and teach Pakistan a lesson so profound that they dare not commit such reckless acts ever again."

DKS refuses to comment

DCM DK Shivakumar on Sunday refused to react to Siddaramaiah's reported statement, saying, "I don't want to comment; already my party at the national level under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi has made it clear. We also had a CWC meeting which condemned the attack. We expressed our solidarity with the government. Country's security is important, and peace is important. Let's all work to protect India first."

CM's remark unfortunate, shameful, says BJP

Bengaluru: Opposition parties have slammed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for reportedly stating that "there is no need to wage a war against Pakistan", terming the remark "unfortunate". Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and BJP leader R Ashoka said at such a sensitive time in the country, Siddaramaiah is acting like a "puppet of Pakistan". He sarcastically remarked that Siddaramaiah should get the 'Pakistan Rathna'. Ashoka also slammed Excise Minister RD Thimmapur for allegedly stating in Bagalkot that the attackers would not have asked the victim's religion before killing them. Former CM and Belagavi MP Jagadish Shettar said, "Siddaramaiah seems more interested in becoming popular in Pakistan. It would be better if he moved there next. Decisions about war or peace are the prerogative of the central government. The CM's comments are shameful and an insult to the nation." Condemning Siddaramaiah, BJP state president BY Vijayendra questioned him over his statement that the RSS did not take part in the freedom struggle. He asked the CM to release documents showing what all struggles he took part in before entering politics. It can be noted that a section of Pakistani media highlighted Siddaramaiah's remark made in the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack. **ENS**

After backlash, Mahasabha rolls back jayanti order

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING an uproar from Lingayats, the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha has withdrawn its controversial directive calling for Basava Jayanti and Renuka Jayanti to be celebrated jointly, breaking decades of tradition.

After the order, signed by former DGP and current state president of the mahasabha Shankar Bidari, sparked outrage, Lingayats leaders and devotees approached minister Eshwar Khandre and mahasabha chairman MLA Dr Shamanur Shivashankarappa. The subsequent pressure finally forced the mahasabha's hand to back down.

Mahasabha secretary Renuka Prasanna said, "We have withdrawn the April 2 circular. We will go with the traditional celebration of Basava Jayanti. There will be no changes."

The April 2 directive had drawn criticism, with community leaders warning that combining the two celebrations would not only disrespect cultural traditions but also deeply fracture community unity. Faced with mounting backlash from Lingayat mathadheeshwaras, Basava organizations, Jagathika Lingayats and mahasabha district units, Shivashankarappa was left with little choice. Talks were held behind the scenes, culminating in the withdrawal of the order.

Balaji, Ponmudy resign as TN mins

While former quit following SC directive, latter resgined after his recent controversial remarks

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

V Senthil Balaji (right) K Ponmudy

TAMIL Nadu Ministers V Senthil Balaji and K Ponmudy resigned from the Cabinet on Sunday and their portfolios have been re-allocated among Ministers S S Sivasankar, S Muthusamy and RS Rajakannappan.

Balaji's resignation follows a directive from the Supreme Court to decide between ministership or freedom in a cash-for-jobs case. Ponmudy's departure from Cabinet is a fallout of his recent controversial remarks, which are believed to have caused the party embarrassment and had already cost him his party post of deputy general secretary.

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi accepted the recommendations made by Chief Minister M K Stalin to accept the resignation of the two ministers as well as to re-allocate their portfolios to the three other ministers.

According to a Raj Bhavan communique, Senthil Balaji's portfolio of electricity has been given to Transport Minister Sivasankar and he will now be designated as Minister for Transport and Electricity. Similarly, Minister for Housing and Urban Development S Muthusamy has been given the Prohibition and Excise portfolios, which were under Senthil Balaji, and he has been designated as Minister for Housing, Prohibition and Excise.

Meanwhile, Ponmudy's portfolios of Forests and Khadi have been given to Dairy Development Minister R S Rajakannappan, who is now redesignated as Minister for Forests and Khadi. In addition, the CM has recommended the induction of inducting T Mano Thangaraj, former minister from the Padmanabhapuram Assembly constituency, into the Cabinet. He will be sworn in at a function at the Raj Bhavan on Monday (April 28). Thangaraj was previously made Minister for Information and Technology in 2021 when the DMK government assumed office. On May 11, 2023, his portfolios were changed to Milk and Dairy Development. Thangaraj was dropped from the Cabinet on September 28, 2024. He is likely to be get his earlier portfolios of Milk and Dairy Development in the current reshuffle.

The Cabinet reshuffle marks a steep fall from grace for Ponmudy, a high-profile senior DMK functionary. His recent remarks allegedly hurt religious sentiments and were deemed offensive to women, drawing the ire of the Madras High Court which initiated a suo motu case against him for hate speech. Although, Stalin, as party president, stripped Ponmudy of his party post, demands for his removal as minister have persisted. DMK sources said Ponmudy's apologies to the CM were not accepted as the 'vulgar' remarks have put the DMK in a tight spot ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

In May 2021, when the Stalin ministry was sworn in, Ponmudy was the fifth senior-most minister in the Cabinet and was given the key portfolio of higher education.

However, following a Madras High Court order sentencing him to three years of imprisonment in a disproportionate assets case, he was dropped from the Cabinet.

Ponmudy was reinducted as Higher Education Minister on March 22, 2024 after the SC stayed his conviction and jail term. Subsequently, on September 28, 2024, his portfolios were shifted to Forests, Khadi and Village Industries Board.

An employee said that the department mentioned a 'data loss' but has not, till date, informed stakeholders their sensitive data has been stolen | EXPRESS

Hackers steal data from TN labour dept's sites twice

NIRUPAMA VISWANATHAN @ Chennai

PERSONAL information of lakhs of employers and their staff from across Tamil Nadu has been stolen from the state government's labour department portal twice in the last year. The stolen details belong to employers and their employees in shops and businesses, industries and private firms, and also comprises sensitive data including bank account details of guest workers in the state.

The data was stolen twice in May and November 2024 by two separate hacker groups who, according to an FIR registered on November 14, 2024, claimed to have hacked the entire database from the labour department portal and the inter-state migrant workers' portal for sale on the dark web.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

The database contained the Aadhaar and PAN details of employers, their phone numbers and addresses. The hackers also accessed documents related to the addresses and other personal details of several thousands of their employees.

The stolen data belongs to employers and their employees as registered under various labour laws, including the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (National Festival and Special Holidays) Act, Motor Transport Workers Act, Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act and Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, among others.

Apart from the labour department portal, data from the department's Inter-State Migrant Workers MIS—which was launched in 2023—has also been stolen. This system is used for registration of inter-state migrant workers employed in commercial establishments, agriculture, schools, colleges, local bodies and motor establishments, and has details of their Aadhaar and even their bank accounts.

The department has been able to recover most of the lost data with help from the Tamil Nadu State Data Centre which maintains the server for the department. However, instead of acknowledging the large scale data theft, the state government has been treating the incidents as merely a 'data loss' event in which they have been able to successfully avoid severe repercussions because the data was recovered fairly quickly.

Man held for rape, murder of 4-year-old niece in Odisha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Berhampur

DAY after the body of a four-year-old girl was found from an under-construction anganwadi centre in Khalingi village of Ganjam district, Odisha, police have solved the case and arrested a relative of the deceased on charges of rape and murder.

Ganjam SP Subhendu Patra said the accused, identified as Kalia Naha of Khalingi village, is a distant uncle of the victim. He frequently enticed the victim with chips and toffees during her visits to her maternal uncle's house in Khalingi.

On Friday, while under the influence of alcohol and after watching explicit content, Kalia saw the victim playing on the street and called her. She approached

Kalia unsuspectingly, and he lured her into the under-construction anganwadi centre, where he sexually assaulted her. "When the victim screamed and tried to resist, he smothered her to death. He then hid her body in an interior room of the building before going to drink again," he added.

The little girl and her parents from Mahanala village had gone to her maternal uncle's house in Khalingi to attend the week-long jatra. She went missing while playing with other kids near her uncle's house. He family who were busy with villagers in winding up the jatra activities did not notice her absence. However, they found her missing during dinner and went in her search.

A group of villagers found her body in the under-construction building in the wee hours of Saturday. Since her body bore injury marks, the family suspected that she had been sexually assaulted and then killed. Basing on the complaint, police launched a investigation and her body was sent for postmortem.

SP Patra said, several persons were rounded up on suspicion. However, based on clues and fresh scientific evidence, the accused Kalia was nabbed from the village.

The issue also raised a political storm in the district with leaders of different parties flocking to the village.

'LTV VALID'

Pak student in D'gere has long-term visa, can stay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Davanagere

SUPERINTENDENT of Police Uma Prashanth said a Pakistani woman is pursuing MBBS in the district on a long-term educational visa and as such, she is not required to leave the country.

In the wake of the escalation of tension between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Union government has directed that all Pakistani citizens staying in the country should leave by April 27. In this context, Pakistani nationals are being identified and sent back to their country. However, exemption has been allowed for long-term visa (LTV) holders.

The SP said, "We have received a circular from the Home Ministry and the government. A Pakistani woman stays here on a long-term visa, issued by the Central government, for studies. Its validity is until August 2025; hence, there is no need for any action against her."

She said as per the circular, "Diplomatic and official visas will, however, remain valid, with any deadline to exit India to be decided by the Ministry of External Affairs. Long-term visas issued to Pakistani citizens will also remain valid. There shall also be no restriction on the issue of new diplomatic and official visas or long-term visas."

BEAT THE HEAT

A sea of people throngs the Marina Beach in Chennai on Sunday evening to seek respite from the soaring summer heat | ASHWIN PRASATH

EXPRESS READ

BJP poised to expand its influence across South, says Kishan

VIJAYAWADA: Union Minister G Kishan Reddy asserted that the BJP is poised to expand its influence across South India, with the party governments set to emerge in Tamil Nadu and Telangana, while addressing the 135th birth anniversary celebrations of BR Ambedkar at an intellectual conference held in Vijayawada on Sunday. Kishan Reddy praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's relentless efforts for the country's development, and highlighted the BJP's commemoration of Ambedkar Jayanti on a grand scale.

TTD introduces block-based queue management system for devotees

TIRUMALA: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has launched a new block-based queue management system to enhance the experience of devotees waiting outside the Vaikuntam Queue Complex. The initiative, led by Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Choudary, aims to provide facilities equal to or better than those inside the complex. Following extensive discussions, inspections, and a successful trial run, TTD reorganised the serpentine queue lines into secure blocks, each accommodating up to 400 pilgrims. Each block is equipped with gates and numbered compartments.

Fake fundraisers in Pahalgam victim's name irks kin

ASISH MEHTA @ Bhubaneswar

STILL struggling to cope with the loss of Prasant Satpathy, 41, who fell victim to terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22, his family now seems to be confronted with the challenge of crowdfunding scam.

Sushant, the elder brother of Prasant, has lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime and Economic Offence police station in Balasore alleging some people have started a fake fundraising campaign on social media platforms and collecting money in the name of helping the terror victim's family.

Prashant's family came to know about a Facebook user who had started a fundraising campaign using the victim's name without their knowledge. The user had reportedly shared a mobile phone number and requested the people to transfer the money through UPI.

The complaint, a copy of which is with *TNIE*, alleged the Facebook user was collecting the money and assuring the donors that the entire amount would be handed over to Prasant's family. Sushant provided the mobile phone number and the Facebook

"We did not give consent for any such fundraising campaign. We do not approve of any such activity. Strong action should be taken against anyone raising money in our name," Sushant told this newspaper.

Cyber crime police said they have detained a woman for questioning in the connection. "At least five to six people have transferred about ₹18,000 to the person's account. The woman claimed that they had contacted Prasant's younger brother Jayant and informed him about the plan to start the charity drive," police added.

Balasore SP Raj Prasad said, though Prasant's family had not given them the consent, they had started collecting the money using his name.

'Ginger long-term crop, requires more water'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

BASAPPA Horapete from Thimmapur village near Hubballi is another farmer who has leased out his 16-acre property.

"I lost at least Rs 5,000 per acre last year. People from Kerala were after me for the last two years. As I could not make up the loss last year, I am leasing out my land," he said.

Lease holders cultivate at least 40 bags of ginger weighing 60 kg each in one acre. They apply around 50 bags of chicken manure per acre and use a lot of chemical fertiliser and pesticides as ginger is prone to leaf disease.

Farms with borewells are offered higher amounts and if there is no borewell, the lease holder digs it and deducts the amount from the lease money. "We spend Rs 6 lakh per acre in cultivating ginger. We expect Rs 1,600 per bag weighing 60 kg and if we get Rs 2,100 per bag, it is a big profit," said a lease holder on condition of anonymity.

Thousands of acres have been given on contract in Mundgod taluk in Uttara Kannada, Kalghatgi in Dharwad taluk, Hangal in Haveri taluk and Kadalli, Nittur, Thimmapura, Neeralga, Teertha, Adavi Somapura, Jigalli, Malali, Hirebendigeri, Madli, Honnapura and other villages on the outskirts of Hubballi.

Some agriculture experts expressed their concern, saying farm land will be rendered useless, while a few said ginger cultivation enriches soil and helps farmers. "We have seen what ginger cultivation has done in Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu and other districts. No doubt, it brings money to farmers, but it does not help them economically. It is exploitation and also leads to contamination of water, apart from making the land useless," said Krishna Prasad, director, Sahaja Samrudha.

Hittalmani, former additional director, Horticulture Department, said soil gets affected due to constant application of macro and micronutrients and pesticides. "It is a long-term crop that requires more water and care. Usage of macro and micro nutrients and pesticide is high. The crop affects the soil," he said.

A senior scientist from Horticulture Department, UAS, Dharwad, who has done an eight-year study on ginger cultivation, said, "Our study found that soil nutrients are enriched after ginger cultivation because these cultivators use a lot of nutrition and farmyard manure. Farmers cultivating maize after ginger are getting a good yield. Our study found that though farmers do not apply nutrients, their yield shows improvement. The only setback is that chemical residues remain in the soil and as a lot of water is used, nearby streams and water bodies get contaminated," he said, requesting anonymity.

Cong MLAs move privilege motion against Poonja

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mangaluru

Several Congress MLAs have moved a privilege motion against BJP MLA Harish Poonja of Belthangady constituency over the latter's alleged disparaging remarks against Legislative Assembly Speaker UT Khader.

The speaker confirmed this at a press meet here on Sunday. Poonja had made the controversial remarks while commenting on the suspension of BJP MLAs during the last legislative session. Khader said that the privilege committee will analyse the evidence, including the video footage, before taking a call.

"The committee will check whether his statements are in sync with the constitution or not. They will also seek explanation with regard to the context in which the MLA made the statements. It is up to the committee to take a final call," he said. The speaker expressed concern about legislators making such statements for the sake of media attention. "One does not become an MLA just by winning an election. The official status of MLA is granted only after taking the constitutional oath. Therefore, MLAs must align their statements with constitutional principles, regardless of public support," he said.

On the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs, he said opposition leaders had met him to discuss the issue. However, he said since the decision was taken inside the legislature, he alone cannot revoke their suspension.

On tension between India and Pakistan, Khader stressed the need for unity within the country. "Anti-nationals engage in terrorist activities only to break the unity and weaken the country. We should not allow this to happen. We need to unite to fight those anti-national forces," he said.

Relief for North Karnataka grape growers as raisin prices surge

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

Prices of raisins have surged between Rs 180 and Rs 380 per kg

AFTER four years of continuous losses and price slumps, grape farmers in North Karnataka are finally seeing a turnaround as raisins have fetched good prices, offering much-needed relief to growers this year who had been severely distressed since the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic years, raisin prices hovered between Rs 60 and Rs 150 per kg, trapping farmers in debt without even covering production costs. Now, as the prices have surged between Rs 180 and Rs 380 per kg, farmers are witnessing a significant recovery. Some farmers have even secured record-high rates, bringing a renewed sense of hope.

However, the improved prices come amidst a fall in production. "Excessive monsoon rains, severe cold spells between October and December, and heavy dew led to widespread disease and stalk fall in vineyards. As a result, overall yield has fallen by around 65 per cent," said state president of Grape Growers Association Abhykumar Nandrekar.

He said that typically, around 20 tonnes of grapes are produced in each acre of land, which helps in preparing 4.5 tonnes of raisins each season, but this year, production of grapes has dropped to around 12 tonnes an acre due to vagaries of nature.

Despite the reduced yield, the higher prices have compensated for the shortfall. Many farmers who had uprooted their grapevines due to mounting losses are now showing interest in grape cultivation again. Officials said North Karnataka has about 37,000 hectares under grape cultivation, with Vijayapura district leading the area, followed by Bagalkot and Belagavi districts. As far as the total production of raisin is concerned, all three districts together normally produce around 2.30 lakh tonnes of raisin, but this year, due to loss, total production has come to around 65,000 tonnes only,"If grape growers continue to receive good prices for another two years, they will be able to fully recover from the losses of the past," Nandrekar, said.

"Farmers have faced heavy losses with 65% crop damage due to extreme weather. The government must provide compensation and ensure proper crop insurance support," he said.

EDITORIAL

Federalism is an experiment. It has to evolve in a manner that respects both the needs of the Centre and the States

BR Ambedkar

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

AI JOB DISRUPTION REAL, OVERHAUL RESKILLING, EDUCATION POLICIES

THE IT sector's outlook for the new financial year is grim. Majors such as TCS, Infosys and HCL Tech missed their 2024-25 profit estimates and gave cautious guidance for 2025-26, lower than the market estimate in some cases. This is particularly worrying for India, which depends on the sector for both formal employment generation and services exports. Indian IT and IT-enabled services companies employ over 5.5 million professionals. The two largest companies, TCS and Infosys, saw modest hiring growths in 2024-25 after a slump the year before. The new year has seen an uptick, but their hiring intent for 2025-26 is nowhere near the numbers the country's engineering graduates used to look forward to earlier. The numbers cloak a bitter truth: AI is fast reshaping the job market, and India has yet to catch up. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has said AI already performs half the coding tasks in many companies, the bread and butter of Indian IT services.

There is an urgent need for a rethink in the government and large corporations' approach to ensuring that the current and future generations can gear themselves up to face the job market disruption. The National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on coding in schools now seems outdated. Generative AI can write and optimise code faster than any human. India must quickly pivot toward AI and robotics education at all levels. The NEP emphasises AI integration, but implementation remains patchy. Corporates have developed many reskilling initiatives, but short-term upskilling must be completed sooner.

Several nations are steaming ahead in the reskilling race. China is building AI-powered 'cloud schools' and smart manufacturing hubs. Finland offers free AI courses to citizens, and South Korea has set the goal of incorporating AI coursework into the national curriculum at all grades. India, meanwhile, is in the pilot phase, partnering with MNCs to develop education modules for students and entrepreneurs. The challenge is to magnify this exercise many times to cater to millions who risk obsolescence. India must institutionalise AI fluency and critical thinking. The human-machine alliance must be inculcated in universities and workplaces. The corporate sector must raise substantial funds to reskill their employees for AI-augmented roles. The IndiaAI Mission should be at the vanguard of the reskilling revolution.

DON'T ALLOW TERROR IMPERIL J&K TOURISM

BEYOND the instant serving of horror and shock, the impact of the Pahalgam terror attack will endure for a long time. That was evident when the bodies of the tourists killed reached far corners of the country, thousands of kilometres away from the now-bloodied mountain resort, and immense grief coupled with anger pervaded the funerals. While the attack certainly has left an indelible mark on the nation's psyche, it is bound to leave a large footprint on Jammu and Kashmir's economy, particularly its tourism sector.

The attack had an immediate impact on tourism in J&K, suddenly interrupting a remarkable recovery story that promised much to a struggling population. The number of tourists to Kashmir alone had grown by 425 percent between 2021 and 2024 (from 6.65 lakh to 34.98 lakh), and in 2024, J&K received 2.35 crore tourists, including around 65,000 foreigners. Tourism in the border state was undoubtedly on a happy uphill climb when the machinations of the Pakistan-founded terror factory threw it into a tailspin. The impact on J&K tourism has serious repercussions for other Himalayan states. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and even faraway Darjeeling and Sikkim anticipate a spike in tourist inflow this summer that they are unprepared for. An increased tourist footfall is welcome, but these places are already struggling to handle the summer rush from all parts of the country. A further increase in tourist numbers would seriously strain the tourism infrastructure in these states and hamper their sustainable tourism plans. Neither is desirable from the tourism or ecological points of view.

So, it is crucial to revive J&K's tourism normalcy. Crippling the resurgent Kashmiri lives is what the perpetrators of the terror intended, and that, unfortunately, is what's happening. Stories, voices, and visuals emerging from the Vale of Kashmir show how much the people enjoyed the sense of normalcy and how they dread returning to uncertain times. India can't let a few terrorists destroy the gains it made. While devising and implementing steps to contain and destroy cross-border terror networks and their sponsors, it is essential to ensure Kashmiris don't suffer. India's actions against terror must accompany reassurances to Kashmiris of their wellbeing. This is the time to stand with them, not isolate them in the name of terror and religion.

QUICK TAKE

'NAGRIK' IS SUPREME

GANDHI said the customer is king. Corporations give primacy to building relationships with clients. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently coined a variant—*nagrik devo bhava*—for bureaucrats to adopt. In the fast-changing Indian economic landscape, customers and clients get due attention, but not necessarily the ordinary *nagrik* (citizen). The latter is no longer a supplicant facing a fearsome bureaucracy but is more aware and assertive, demands seamless public service and abhors slow decision-making and corruption. For Modi's slogan to work, Indian bureaucracy must shed its colonial construct based on control, procedures and hierarchies and embrace innovation and solution-oriented approaches. An iniquitous bureaucrat-nagrik relationship negates economic growth.

Peninsular politics was shaped by a blend of resistance to and collaboration with Delhi. But the current tensions show the need to do more if the region is to maintain its political space

SOUTHERN SEIZE: PROVOCATIONS AND PRIORITIES

RATHIN ROY

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THE PENINSULA

SOURAV ROY

THE Indian peninsula is quite used to attempts by those running the Union government to establish hegemonic dominance over the region. In medieval times, such attempts were easily foiled. Attempts to appeal to religion and ethnicity were largely futile.

The peninsula had its own Muslim rulers and Christian elites and delivered non-Brahmanical political settlements with greater ease than the rest of the subcontinent. Mughal governors like the Nizam quickly fostered autonomous kingdoms. The British, who secured the peninsula by a squeak, were careful to emulate the Marathas and establish collaborative and autonomous governance arrangements. The Madras and Bombay presidencies were substantially autonomous of Calcutta and, later, Delhi.

The Indian independence movement was a significant force in the peninsula, but most of its iconic leaders—Bhagat Singh, Gandhi, Nehru, Subhash Bose, Jinnah, etc.—looked northwards for their great struggles. And so, in 1947, the Congress and opposition leaders jockeying for power in Delhi lacked a mass base in the peninsula.

Peninsular politics was shaped by a curious mixture of differentiated opposition to, and political collaboration with, the powers in Delhi. The first popular uprising against central hegemony occurred immediately after independence, with a Communist insurrection in Telangana, soon followed by a popular mass mobilisation for a united Andhra Pradesh. The first non-Congress government was formed—and, setting a trend of disgraceful Governors, dismissed through gubernatorial action at Delhi's behest—in Kerala. Periyar and his successors established a compelling Dravidian movement that effectively erased all Delhi-centric parties from Tamil Nadu's political landscape in the mid-1960s. NTR's Telugu Desam movement successfully challenged Congress hegemony in Andhra Pradesh, as KCR later did in Telangana. Ramakrishna Hegde did something very similar in Karnataka with decentralisation, the spear of his counter to hegemonic Delhi.

At the same time, the peninsula played a collaborative game with Delhi. The Congress rotated power with regional forces as an alternative or, as in Tamil Nadu, as a long-term minority coalition partner. The BJP has done so (albeit less successfully) when in power in Delhi, with the Telugu Desam, the AIADMK and the Janata Dal.

The sociological evolution of the peninsula was also distinct. There was no Brahmin-Thakur-Baniya twice-born hegemony in the peninsula. The cause of Dalit and OBC emancipation predates Mandal and was central to the original ideologies of all the peninsular parties. Caste obviously matters hugely in the politics of the peninsula, but the emancipatory outcomes did not await Mandalisation or use it as a political anchor. This relative autonomy in political and social formations allowed sufficient space for the peninsula to evolve its distinct economic path. The politics of collaboration and resistance combined with the presence of a credible autonomous peninsular alternative—communist, Dravidian, or regional—to the national hegemonic party allowed the peninsula to bargain for and secure considerable public sector investments in its two poorest states, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. This subsequently lifted manufacturing levels and provided a base for service sector growth, especially after economic liberalisation.

Tamil Nadu, the only state with a major presence of homegrown manufacturing industrialists, was able to do business under the hood without attracting the interest or pique of any "great" national political leader seeking a share of their rents to secure power in Delhi, as has happened at different times in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Gujarat. Likewise, Kerala was able to pursue its human development model and reap the benefits by eliminating extreme poverty, securing human development and gaining massive prosperity through remittances of an exported educated workforce. Bengaluru attracted a cohort of the old manufacturing and new service industries without government interference. All these states looked outward across the seas for growth and prosperity. They managed to avoid the extraction of rents to maintain a hegemonic central government in Delhi without engaging in costly conflict or civil war.

The current situation is alarming. The dishonourable behaviour of the Tamil Nadu governor, censured by the Supreme Court, and the previous Kerala governor (both from North India), reflects a breakdown in the political settlement between Delhi and the peninsula. Compliant governors like RN Ravi and Arif Mohammed Khan do not act in such a fashion unless their masters, in their arrogance, lose political control. The peninsula is much richer, has lower poverty, and higher human development than the rest of India. However, in the face of real and perceived attempts to impose central hegemony, especially a politically defenestrating delimitation, the peninsular states are for the first time protesting fiscal subsidies to, and questioning the lack of economic progress and the rise of bigotry in, the poorer but more populous parts of India.

However, to counter hegemony, there is work to be done. The peninsula must revitalise its ideological moorings in a strategy for economic prosperity, further annihilate, rather than accommodate, caste, and end discretion-based corruption in favour of better rules and systems worthy of the higher levels of income and human development that they have attained.

At this juncture, none of these is on offer. This vacuum, in fact, unites the politics of the Centre and the peninsula. It gives Delhi considerable leverage. Without an offer on inclusive prosperity, today's overlords in Delhi, as the Mughals before them, offer compensatory freebies and subsidies to different parts of India. When the peninsula engages on this negative terrain, it is, in effect, choosing to play a zero-sum game, affording the Centre leverage to control, even enhance, its political footprint by appealing to primordial questions and playing a common, negative national politics of failed development and compensatory freebies.

The peninsula needs an ideology of economic prosperity rooted in inclusivity, less discretion, and further progress in the annihilation of caste if it is to leverage its economic gains to maintain its rightful political space. There is no escape from this reality, no soft option. It remains to be seen if the peninsula's collective political leadership can, like their political predecessors, respond collectively and effectively to this existential challenge. *(Views are personal)*

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A HINDU WARRIOR'S FORGOTTEN SACRIFICE IN KARBALA

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THE barbaric Pahalgam massacre brings this unsung history to mind in response. The Battle of Karbala took place on the tenth day of the Arabic month of Muharram in 680 CE at Karbala in present-day Iraq. On one side were the supporters and clan of the Prophet of Islam's grandson, Hussain, while on the other were the troops of the Umayyad Caliph, Yazid the First.

Hussain, the son of Hazrat Ali and the Prophet's daughter Fatima, came to fight the forces of the oppressive Caliphate at the request of the people of Kufa, even though his brother Hassan had already been killed by these rival political forces in Islam. In the Battle of Karbala, the chivalrous Hussain and his followers were surrounded on all sides, just as the Pandava prince Abhimanyu was surrounded by the Kauravas in the Battle of Kurukshetra, in the circular military formation called the *chakravyuh*.

Six thousand enemy soldiers cut off Hussain's water supply from the river Euphrates. Thirty thousand of Yazid's soldiers fell on Hussain's small group of two hundred, which included women and seventy-two of Hussain's relatives. They were butchered mercilessly in their defenceless state on account of their lineage and the values they represented, which threatened the authority of Yazid. By sunset on Ashura day, the tenth of Moharram, Hussain and his companions were all dead, including a four-year-old girl, Sakina, and a six-month-old baby, Ali Asghar.

This battle led to the permanent split between the followers of Ali, called the Shias, and their opponents, the Sunnis. Though both were Muslims, the devotees of el-Lah, the one Arab god of many chosen by the Prophet of Islam as the deity of his new religion in the seventh century, they were divided forever within fifty years of the Prophet's death—according to which human being they followed.

In the physically unequal Battle of Karbala, remembered ever after as the moral victory of the Shias, a Brahmin of the *gotra*, or ancestral line, of Rishi Bharadwaja—the father of Dronacharya and grandfather of Ashvatthama in the *Mahabharata*—fought for Hussain. This was Rahab Siddha Datt, from the furthest Hindu settlement to the north-west of India, who sacrificed his seven sons at Karbala in defence of Hussain, the Prophet's grandson. He had already been entrusted with public funds by Hussain's saintly father, Ali, at the Battle of Jamal, fought earlier at Basra. The Mohyal Brahmins fought for the Prophet's own family—for the early Muslim leaders, Ali and Hussain, whom they revered as good men. This happened a few decades before the first conquest of Hindu land by Muslims in 712 CE in Sindh.

Rahab Datt came of old fighting stock from the ancient tradition of Hindu warrior-priests dedicated to fighting on the side of dharma, or righteousness. They cared about character. In every age, they looked for the noblest person of their time to ally with—win or lose—in the spirit of *Yatho Dharmastatho Jaya*, 'Where there is *dharma* (righteousness), there is moral victory', as the *Bhagavad Gita* says in the *Mahabharata*. The phrase occurs thirteen times in the Mahabharata.

PIXABAY

At the Battle of Karbala, with the odds stacked against him, Hussain found an unlikely ally. Rahab Siddha Datt, a Brahmin warrior from the furthest Hindu settlement in north-west India, sacrificed his seven sons to defend the Prophet's grandson in the battle. For Mohyal Brahmins, there is no greater purpose than defending *dharma*

Accordingly, Rahab Datt is believed to have been greatly attached to the Prophet's son-in-law, Ali, for his nobility of character. He rallied his troops, although it was too late to save Hussain, and by combining forces with another follower of Ali, captured and razed Kufa. The tyrant Yazid did not rule for longer than forty days. Rahab Datt's family came back to India from Iraq and became known thereafter as 'Hussaini Brahmins' for having spilt their blood in Hussain's cause and helped win a moral victory. They belonged to an endogamous sect of Brahmins called 'Mohyal', which had seven clan names—Bali, Bhimwal, Chibber, Datt, Lau, Mohan and Vaid.

Centuries after the Battle of Karbala, Bhai Mati Das and Bhai Sati Das, two Chibber brothers who were devoted to the Sikh Gurus as the noblest men of their era, were tortured and executed in Delhi in November 1675. They were killed with their spiritual leader, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, by order of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, for steadfastly refusing to forsake their faith.

Generations of Mohyals became Sikhs in medieval times, for it was the custom of the Hindus of the north-west to give their eldest sons to the Sikh Gurus in order to steadily build civil resistance and, inevitably, military resistance against successive Mughal rulers. Respect for individual nobility of character ran like a red thread through their affiliations.

Earlier, it was Jehangir who ordered the torture of Guru Arjan Dev at Lahore, which the Guru bore with immense moral strength and stoic endurance. He died on 30 May 1606, and the Sikhs commemorated his passing ever after with *Chabeel*. *Chabeel* means a place where you can get water. Even today, the Sikhs, wherever they may be, courteously offer all passers-by a cool, sweet drink in summer in remembrance of Guru Arjan Dev—repaying the brutality done to him with public service in a magnificent message about how not to be.

Today, 'Drona's descendants', the Mohyal Brahmins, are dedicated to the cause of the Indian republic. This clan's military tradition continues, with any number of Mohyals serving in the Indian armed forces, particularly the Air Force. Along with this old clan, the ideal it chose to live by lives on too—in the emblem of the Supreme Court, which says *Yatho Dharmastatho Jaya*.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Wealth maker

Ref: *Indian women's wealth wizardy* (Apr 27). In the past, gold purchases were seen as part of ostentatious consumption. But today, the preception has changed. Gold purchase is now considered as an investment whose value has consistently risen. It has proved its value as a hedge against inflation.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Trump's record

Ref: *Trump and 100 days of vicissitudes* (Apr 27). Donald Trump is yet to fulfill many of his election promises. He had vowed to end the wars in Ukraine and Gaza within 24 hours of taking office. Meanwhile, another war he started—trade tariffs—is showing no signs of easing. His ambitions to annex Canada, Greenland and Gaza have added to the global worries about US intentions.

Haneef M, Kottayam

Pahalgam attack

Ref: *Massacre draws UNSC's strong condemnation* (Apr 27). The UN sheds crocodile tears on one hand, while on the other, they continue to support Pakistan which is openly inciting violence in the Kashmir Valley. There is ample evidence against Pakistan in this regard. The UN and the international community must take note and hold Islamabad to account.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

Tourists return

Ref: *Kashmiriyat makes tourists feel safe* (Apr 27). Just days after the attack, fears among potential visitors have faded, thanks to the sense of safety instilled by locals' support. Pakistan's attempt to destabilise the region has failed. The Centre must ensure such attacks don't happen again.

Veerakumaran Thampi, Thiruvananthapuram

Change attitude

Ref: *Gold bonds yield 109% returns* (Apr 27). The gross domestic savings of Indian households, particularly the gold held by families, have been a pillar of the Indian economy. However, in recent times, western influences have led people to indulge in wasteful consumption, causing a decline in gross domestic savings as a percentage of GDP. This must change.

R Sriramprasad, email

Promote awareness

Attempts to intimidate the judiciary pose a threat to parliamentary democracy. The Vice President continues to stress the supremacy of the Parliament. One way to counter this is by raising public awareness about the Constitution and the judiciary's crucial role.

A Sreeramarao, Vishakapatnam

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
Under PM Modi's leadership, special focus has been placed on strengthening cancer care... Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been set up to enhance early detection and screening

K C Venugopal @kcvenugopalmp
Assam is under the grip of state-sponsored Gonda Raj today, with the Congress and opponents of the Himanta regime as their prime targets.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The govt should clarify whether allowing live coverage of special operations was a strategic negligence from security point of view or was it motivated by political propaganda

Tourism-related activities slowly spring back to life ● Amid setback, revival hopes gain ground

Buzz returns as tourists trickle in to Pahalgam

ZAHOOR PUNJABI

When we arrived here (Pahalgam) on April 22, people back home were worried and apprehensive. However, we told them we are safe as the locals are very cooperative and supportive and security forces are also around

Dr Shubangni from Maharashtra

'Locals very cooperative'

A tourist from Gurgaon Kunal Mahajan has come on his first visit to Kashmir with parents, wife and a children. "After landing in Srinagar, we never thought of cutting short our visit. We have so far visited Gulmarg, Sonamarg and other places in Srinagar," he said. Mahajan said locals have made sure that they feel safe in Valley and it is because of their support that "we are moving around freely without any fear or threat".

FAYAZ WANI @ Pahalgam

RESILIENCE has triumphed over terror and fear as tourists have begun returning to Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, where terrorists killed 26 people in one of the deadliest terror attack on civilians in over three decades long militancy.

On Sunday, tourists in small groups arrived in Pahalgam, which earlier looked like a ghost town after Tuesday's terror attack, and tourism-related activities sprung back to life. At the Lidder stream, tourists -- both domestic and foreigners -- leisurely clicked pictures and shot videos to take good memories back home.

A couple from Pune said they had been planning to visit Kashmir for the last few years and arrived in Srinagar on April 23, a day after the terror attack. "When we arrived in Srinagar, we were a bit apprehensive. But after our landing in Srinagar we did not confront any issue. In fact everybody from cab drivers, hoteliers, shikara walas to locals have been very helpful," they said. "We will be in Pahalgam on Monday. It signifies that we feel safe and secure here."

A group of 50 tourists from Maharashtra had arrived in Pahalgam on Saturday evening and spent a night at the picturesque place. "We are a group of 50 people comprising young, old and child. When we arrived here on April 22, people back home were worried and apprehensive. However, we told them we are safe as the locals are very cooperative and supportive and security forces are also around," Dr Shubangni.

Another group member, Triveni Taida, said, "Our being in Pahalgam means that we are not scared nor did we face any threat. Kashmir is a very picturesque and lovely place and the countrymen should visit this place. We have been overwhelmed by the hospitality of Kashmiris and we will act as their brand ambassadors and tell people back home to visit Kashmir," she said.

A group of Croatian tourists was enjoying in Gulmarg. "Kashmir is picturesque. This is my 6th visit to Kashmir while it is the first visit of other group members. We did not face any security issue after arriving in Srinagar on April 24," said Valtvo, a Croatian.

Tourism will bounce back: J&K associations

We stand with our brothers and sisters in J&K's tourism and hospitality sector. We share their pain and reaffirm our support. The resilience of Kashmir people has inspired us. Today they need our solidarity, compassion and encouragements

Rajiv Mehra, Tourism Association

'Must stand together'

Chairperson of Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) Jyoti Mayal said that the tourism industry in the union territory needs to stand together in this hour of crisis. Kashmiris surely are more resilient. We need to unitedly condemn the April 22 terrorist attack and explore means to assist them in every possible way, such as by supporting tourism. We'll have to work on making it a safe destination once again."

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

TOURISM in Kashmir, which was on the rise since Covid, has received a setback after the killing of 26 civilians on Tuesday in Pahalgam, but hoteliers and other stakeholders are confident of it bouncing back. Some tourists have also overcome fear triggered by the massacre and stayed put in the Valley.

According to the association of the hoteliers in the Valley, footfall has plummeted and 80 per cent bookings have been cancelled in the last four days. "People are obviously scared and don't want to come to Kashmir. So they are sending requests for cancellation. So far, 80 per cent bookings have been cancelled. However, this is secondary. Whatever has happened was unfortunate. We have no regrets about the business as, for us, the well-being of our guests is foremost. We hope the situation will improve soon," said Kashmir Hotels Association (KHA) president Mushtaq Ahmed Chaya.

The association on Saturday held a press conference with their business associates in which travel and tour operators from other parts of the country participated as a confidence-building measure.

Chaya said that booming tourism in Kashmir was result of joint efforts and years of hard work. "Confidence in the whole country went down in the last 30 years. And we say that our credibility has gone down again. On Saturday, all the people, who work with us from the country, had come. .. Still, there are a good number of tourists in Kashmir... I will say that time is the best healer," he added.

In 2024, about 29.5 lakh tourists visited the Valley and 66,000 of them were foreigners. The tourist season in Kashmir starts around March and continues till August–September. During the season, the average monthly footfall is 2-3 lakh. As tourists are calling off their plans to visit Kashmir, many hotels and restaurants particularly in Pahalgam have shut.

Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality general secretary Rajiv Mehra said that there would be some cancellations but with support from all stakeholders tourism would surely bounce back.

'No security in meadow at time of terror attack'

FAYAZ WANI @ Pahalgam

NO security personnel were reportedly deployed at the Baisaran meadow, the "mini Switzerland" where terrorists mowed down 25 tourists and a local resident on April 22 in one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in J&K in over three decades of militancy.

"This was the first-ever attack on tourists in Pahalgam. And there was no security presence in the Baisaran meadow when the attack unfolded," J&K Pony Walas Association president Waheed Ahmed claims.

It is worth noting that the road to Baisaran is not motorable. The tourist spot can be reached only on foot or on horses or ATV scooters. Baisaran meadow is also surrounded by dense forests. And the closest security camp to the meadow — a CRPF one — is distant around six to seven kilometres away from it. It is said that about 300 tourists were present at the picturesque spot when the terrorists struck.

Locals say that the spectre of terrorism or a security threat never loomed over Baisaran and that tourists never hesitated to roam around freely here.

"The terror attack took place before the seasonal Army deployment in the area," one of them points out.

Army men are deployed here during the time of the Amarnath Yatra to ensure the safety of pilgrims. Besides, paramilitary personnel are also stationed in Pahalgam and the adjoining areas for a safe and smooth movement of the yatris.

After last week's massacre, the tourist spot has remained out of bounds for civilians. Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed on the road leading to the meadow. Security personnel remain on their toes, keeping a close watch on the movement of people and vehicles.

Security agencies have identified three Lashkar terrorists — two of them from Pakistan and the third one a local — behind the carnage. The search operation launched in Baisaran and its adjoining areas to nab them continued for the sixth day today.

Indian, Pak forces trade gunfire; tensions escalate

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE border tension between India and Pakistan is escalating as the Pakistani troops for the third successive night breached border ceasefire and fired on army posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir evoking effective response from army men, who have been put on maximum level of alertness.

"On the night of April 26-27, Pakistan Army men breached border fire and resorted to unprovoked small arms fire across the Line of Control in the areas opposite Tutmari Gali (Nowgam sector) and Rampur (Boniyar, Uri) sectors in north Kashmir," an army official said.He said the army men responded effectively with appropriate small arms fire. There were no casualties or injuries in the Pakistani troops firing.

It was for the third consecutive night that Pakistani troops breached the border ceasefire and fired on Indian army posts without any provocation.

The Pakistani troops have targeted many Indian posts in north Kashmir by firing from small arm weapons for three nights. The firing on Indian army posts by Pakistani troops has come days after the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

INSIDER TRACK

LTC rule in focus after terror attack

The presence of several government employees, including two to three Intelligence Bureau personnel, at Baisaran meadow in Kashmir's Pahalgam may be a coincidence, but they had one thing in common: the government's revised policy of encouraging them to travel to the Union Territory on vacation. The Centre's tweaked Leave Travel Concession (LTC) norms encourage government employees to go on vacation to J&K and allow even a lower-grade official to avail of air travel facilities. Among those killed include IB officer Manish Ranjan, Navy lieutenant Vinay Narwal, young Air Force Staff Corporal Tage Hailyang and an SBI employee Shaileshbhai Kalathiya, besides two more unidentified intelligence personnel. Incidentally, the government, in its list of those killed, marked Manish as 'Excise Inspector', but earlier at the incident spot, in the first-person account given by his family members, he was identified as an IB official. IB sources said, other than Manish, two more agency officials were vacationing in J&K and may have been hurt. "In no way we can officially identify our officials dead or injured," a source said. Manish was also on an LTC trip with his family when the attack unfolded.

One nation, one poll: Netas' blues

As the BJP pushes a nationwide campaign to build support for the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative, many political leaders, including some from the BJP, face an existential dilemma. They argue that this reform could jeopardise the political futures of many aspirants across parties. Typically, candidates who don't secure a Lok Sabha ticket turn to Assembly or municipal elections as alternative routes. However, with synchronised elections, this fallback option would disappear for the next five years. As one BJP leader put it, "Without staggered elections, leaders risk losing relevance over time, and new contenders could emerge. The competition for tickets will become fiercer than ever."

Condolences pour in from US

In his post-Pahalgam killing reaction, President Donald Trump, in his typical style, referred to India and Pakistan as close friends and expressed confidence that they would "figure it out"—a variation of his usual tendency to offer mediation in global conflicts. Be that as it may, the outpouring of condolences and messages of solidarity from the United States was overwhelming. President Trump and Vice President JD Vance called Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Within three days of the attack, 75 members of Congress, 25 Senators, four governors, and almost all top US officials and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom sent in their condolences.

Synergy between Delhi govt & police

With the BJP in power in the NCT of Delhi, there appears to be a perfect synergy between the National Capital's police establishment and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. Recently, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora was heard issuing quick orders on a missive the CM sent him.

It is learnt that Delhi's top cop has asked the Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) heading the Capital's police districts that complaints related to the police department coming from Delhi CM's "Jansunwai" programme must be responded to within three days and the response should also be forwarded to the Delhi government's vigilance unit. Gupta holds a "Jansunwai" programme at her office thrice a week, during which she listens to public grievances.

After bloodbath in Baisaran: Country needs to pause, think and act

YASHOVARDHAN AZAD
Former Central Information Commissioner and former Secretary (Security) and Special Director, Intelligence Bureau

THE savagery at Baisaran meadows by Islamist terrorists is reminiscent of ISIS's brutality in dealing with their hostages. The massacre of 26 men in front of their wives and children—that too along religious lines—was spine-chilling. A brave local Muslim also died a hero protecting the tourists. While the five terrorists melted away into the forests nearby, the nation was left dumbstruck in grief. The gut-wrenching wails have now fallen silent to a pall of gloom on the misty pine woods.

After the initial outrage, questions over accountability are bound to be raised in public discourse. Was it an intelligence failure or smugness on the part of security forces? There were intelligence inputs of terrorists conducting reconnaissance in the area, checking hotels and familiarising themselves with the topography.

With the valley vibrant with the colours of spring, tourists come in hordes. A record 2 crore tourists visited J&K last year—a great message to the international community that Kashmir welcomed all and sundry. All nakas and bandobast covered the Pahalgam area, but not the 6 km above to Baisaran, which falls in Anantnag district. The absence of a visible security presence in such a high-value area, despite prior inputs, is not just troubling—it is a lapse.

The security grid is strong in the valley, one of the reasons given for the spurt of terrorist activity in the Jammu region in 2023-24. In the history of terrorism in J&K for over 35 years, 16 years saw killings of around 1,000 annually. Time and again, Pakistan-backed terrorists have managed to engineer violence, choosing their time and place. It is not possible for the security forces to thwart their actions each time. Deployment of forces is hugely dependent on the threat perception and areas of strategic importance. But even if you pump in thousands of men in the Pir Panjal range, the forests and mountains will simply gobble them up and you will not be able to command all the ingress and egress points.

How should a senseless slaughter of innocent tourists, bearing the imprimatur of the ISI be responded to? No terrorist group had earlier targeted tourists, as tourism was an essential component of J&K economy and livelihood of the local people. For the time being, the decision by the Cabinet Committee on Security to stay the Indus Waters Treaty and asking the military advisers of Pakistan embassy to go back are welcome moves. The closure of Attari border and cancelling all visas for Pakistanis will, however, affect the common man and certainly should be reviewed later. Briefing diplomats on the attack is a wise step to convince the various countries to isolate Pakistan. An ex-Pentagon official has even called for declaring Pakistan a terror state.

At media debates, security and area experts have mostly advised a calibrated response—to weigh in different options and not to respond in a knee-jerk manner. It is also important to consider if retaliatory actions taken by India post Uri or Pulwama attacks have deterred Pakistan from committing transgressions at the border and within J&K. In fact, terrorists equipped with the latest M4 carbines are coming in and the number of foreign terrorists today (estimated at 75) is larger than the home-grown ones. Drones carrying drugs and weapons from across the border are repeatedly seized or repelled by the Border Security Force along the Punjab and Jammu borders.

THE 2001 CEASEFIRE ALONG THE LINE OF CONTROL HASN'T BENEFITED INDIA. IT HAS GIVEN PAKISTAN A BREATHER TO SHIFT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TROOPS TO THE AFGHAN BORDER, CRUSH THE BALOCH INSURGENCY, PROTECT CHINA'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND CONTAIN DISSENT IN GILGIT-BALTISTAN. GIVEN THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN BRAZENLY FLOUTED, WHY NOT ABROGATE IT?

Has the ceasefire along the LoC since 2021 benefited India? No. It has given Pakistan the breather to shift nearly 80,000 troops to the Afghan border, where its army is fighting a losing battle with the Tehrik-e-Taliban and is on a tense face-off with Afghan troops over the expulsion of more than 1 lakh Afghans from Pakistan. Another diversion is towards Balochistan, where it is engaged in crushing the insurgency in the most brutal manner. A part is deployed to protect China's CPEC interests and contain dissent in Gilgit-Baltistan. It has also allowed the ISI to double down on its covert war in Kashmir.

The Pakistan Army chief also continues with his rant over Kashmir, giving a clear hint of his pernicious designs. Where lies the sanctity of the ceasefire agreement when it is flouted in the most brazen manner? Why not abrogate this meaningless agreement?

The second option would be to give a massive thrust to our covert actions and go on an intelligence overdrive to neutralise all sleeper cells of Pakistani terrorist groups in the country. All social media handles emanating from Pakistan should be blocked and Indian envoys should lay bare the details of the butchery at Baisaran in all capitals abroad. The unearthing of fresh evidence of Pakistan's complicity by the NIA should once again be shared with all countries.

Third, once the NIA investigation is over and world capitals have been fully briefed, kinetic action must be considered. This should not be driven by public sentiment alone—it must strategic, proportionate, precise and well-timed. The defence forces and intelligence agencies are well equipped with the information on the terror bases across the line. There is great scope for sharing intelligence with friendly countries like the US, Japan, Australia and others. Most nations are behind India in condemning terror, barring a few like China and Turkey. Joining the government in this hour is the entire opposition and Kashmiris. The prime minister's intent is clear when he says that terrorism should be finished, once for all.

How long can you live in the shadow of nuclear blackmail? Hesitation to act after Mumbai attacks and only using diplomatic channels is still a matter of public discourse. Apart from the nine terrorists killed on ground and one brought to trial, the handlers in Pakistan still breathe easy. Tahawwur Rana could be extradited 17 years later, at best, to confirm the information already available from Headley. Let Lashkar-e-Taiba not go unpunished this time for the savagery at Pahalgam, and nor should the ISI handlers.

The carnage of Baisaran will remain etched in the memory of the nation forever. The lush meadows where grass-flowers grow wild will wait earnestly for visitors again. Drowned in anger and pain, the citizens await a befitting retaliatory action from the government.

(Views are personal)

TRAGIC ENDING

A man, his first wife and daughter have been arrested in UP's Basti for allegedly killing his second wife, police said on Sunday. The motive behind the crime was his new wife's frequent demands for money from him.

2 HELD — BLACK MARKETING IPL TICKETS IN JAIPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	43	28	Mumbai	32	27
Bhopal	39	26	Panaji	35	29
Jaipur	41	28	Patna	33	24
Amritsar	40	22	Lucknow	36	24
Chennai	32	29	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	33	24	Imphal	26	19
Srinagar	23	08	Chandigarh	39	25

10 houses of suspected terrorists, overground workers razed since Pahalgam attack ● Pak nationals directed to return home after Indian govt revoked their visas

Houses of 3 more terrorists razed amid J&K crackdown

Debris of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Jameel Ahmed's house demolished amid government crackdown in Bandipora district | PTI

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

HOUSES of three more alleged active terrorists were demolished in Bandipora, Pulwama and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir as security forces continued their crackdown on the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory following the Pahalgam attack.

With this, 10 houses of suspected terrorists and overground workers of terror outfits have been razed so far since the April 22 attack in the lush meadows of Baisaran that killed 26 people and left the nation in grief and fuming.

As part of the anti-terror crackdown, security forces have raided more than 500 locations in the Valley in five days. Over 2000 suspected people have been detained for questioning so far. Political parties have urged the Centre to ensure that innocent people are not targeted while it goes after terrorists.

Carrying on with the targeted demolition drive, authorities pulled down the house of Adnan Shafi at Wandina in Shopian district on Saturday night, officials said and claimed that Shafi had joined terrorist ranks last year. The house of another suspected active terrorist Amir Nazir was pulled down in Pulwama district. In Bandipora district, the house of suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist, Jameel Ahmad Shergojri, was razed.

It is for the first time in over three decades of militancy in Jammu & Kashmir that security forces are demolishing houses linked with suspected active local terrorists.

Politicians, including J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, have expressed concern over demolition of houses of suspected terrorists and large-scale arrests.

"After the Pahalgam terror attack, there must be a decisive fight against terrorism and its origin. People of Kashmir have come out openly against terrorism and the murder of innocent people; they did this freely and spontaneously. It's time to build on this support and avoid any misplaced action that alienates people. Punish the guilty, show them no mercy but don't let innocent people become collateral damage," Omar Abdullah posted on X.

Former CM and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti urged the Centre to tread with caution and carefully distinguish between terrorists and civilians after the Pahalgam attack.

"It must not alienate innocent people, especially those opposing terror. There are reports of thousands being arrested and scores of houses of common Kashmiris being demolished along with those of militants. Appeal Government to direct the authorities to take care that innocent people are not made to feel the brunt as alienation aids terrorists' goals of division and fear," Mehbooba posted on X.

Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also asked the Centre not to punish innocent Kashmiris in its quest for justice for the victims of the terror attack.

"While the Kashmiris collectively condemn the heinous crime at Pahalgam, and it is imperative to bring its perpetrators to justice, indiscriminate arrests and videos of houses and neighbourhoods being demolished circulating on social media is disturbing and distressing. I urge the authorities that in seeking justice for the innocent victims do not punish innocent Kashmiri families," he said on X.

Omar advises caution

Politicians, including J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, have expressed concern over demolition of houses of suspected terrorists and large-scale arrests. "People of Kashmir have come out openly against terrorism and the murder of innocent people; they did this freely and spontaneously. It's time to build on this support and avoid any misplaced action that alienates people. Punish the guilty, show them no mercy but don't let innocent people become collateral damage," he wrote on X.

Cross-border families crumble as tensions rise

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE heightened tension in India-Pakistan relations since the terror attack in Pahalgam has disrupted the lives of countless ordinary folk. Taking a tough stance, the Indian government has revoked the visas of Pakistani citizens and directed them to return to their country. This decision has shaken the lives of several Pakistani citizens and families who have recently come to Rajasthan, which shares the longest common border with Pakistan.

Among the worst-hit is the love story of two youths from Jaisalmer, which flourished in Pakistan two years ago and culminated in their marriage but has now fallen prey to sudden orders from the government.

Cousins Saleh Mohammad and Mushtaq Ali, residents of Devikot in Jaisalmer, went to meet their aunt in the Ghotki district of Sindh province of Pakistan in July 2023. There, they fell in love with two girls named Karam Khatun (21) and Sachul (22). The two couples entered wedlock in August 2023 with the families' consent.

Despite the Nikah, the brides could not get a visa to India, but the grooms had to return in September 2023. After a wait of about one and a half years, the brides finally got their visas, came to Jaisalmer on April 11, and started living with their husbands and their families.

Just 10 days later, the terror attack in Pahalgam shattered their new-found wedded bliss.

With the Modi government ordering Pakistani citizens to leave India, the brides' father-in-law Haji Abdullah is now a worried man. He says, "After the brides' arrival in India, we had applied for a long-term visa. But after the government order, police is pressuring us to send them back to Pakistan."

"The administration is bent on sending the young brides back to Pakistan. How will these two go their in such tense times," Abdullah wonders.

A similar situation confronts a family of 18 from Tando Allahyar district of Pakistan who have come to Rajasthan's Barmer just last weekend. On Saturday, this Hindu family requested the government to let them stay in India.

A BSF personnel checks documents of Pakistani nationals arriving to cross over to their country as the deadline to exit India nears its end | PTI

Heartbreak amid exodus: Separations on both sides

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE heart-wrenching stories of separation following the Pahalgam attack are not limited to the Indian side, similar narratives are emerging from across the border as well.

The ordeal is not confined to Indian women married to Pakistani nationals, who find themselves stranded at the Attari-Wagah Integrated Check-Post (ICP) due to immigration authorities denying them permission to leave the country. Several Pakistani women married to Indian nationals are also stuck in Pakistan. Despite having valid documentation, they are not permitted to reunite with their husbands and families, as they hold Pakistani passports. Only children are being allowed to travel back as they possess Indian passports.

Dr Vikram Udasi from Maharashtra's Jalgaon is waiting at the Attari border for the past two days to receive his wife, Priya, a Pakistani national who went back to visit her family. Their four-year-old child has an Indian passport.

"She has been on a long-term visa (LTV) for the past eight years, which will expire in 2026. When the Indian authorities announced the suspension of visa services on April 23, they stated that holders of No-Objection Return to India (NORI) certificates with long-term visas could return. She had only gone to meet her parents about 20 to 25 days ago. Now, the Pakistani authorities are not allowing her to return to India because she holds a Pakistani passport," he explained.

In a similar case, Rishi Kumar from Maharashtra's Kolhapur has also been at Attari for the past few days to meet his wife, Savita, who is from a town in Baluchistan. They have 10-year-old twins, Saysha and Revansh. Savita travels back to her home every two to three years to visit her parents and family. She spent about 12 days there this time before he came to Attari to drop her off. "She holds a long-term visa and will be eligible for Indian nationality once she completes the mandatory period," he noted.

His wife informed him that about 50 Pakistani women married to Indian men were waiting at Wagah to cross into India but were not being allowed. As per sources, 75 Pakistan nationals crossed from Attari border on Saturday, while 335 Indians nationals returned home.

J'khand minister sends salary to victims' kin

Jharkhand health minister Irfan Ansari has offered to donate his four-month's salary as tribute to the families of the Pahalgam terror victims. Terming the attack a blight on humanity and the very soul of India, Ansari said "This incident has shaken me deeply. I have decided that I will donate my four months' salary as tribute to the martyr families.

All Pak nationals deported: Bihar govt

Bihar government confirmed that all Pakistan nationals, who visited the state since January this year, have left for home before the deadline set by the Centre. The Chief Secretary said the 19 Pak nationals, in the state on tourist visas, left before April 27. Those on long term visas will have to exit before April 29, he added.

Punjab farmers on border race against time to wrap harvest as uncertainty looms

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AMID escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, farmers in Punjab with lands situated between the Indian border fence and the zero line (the official border with Pakistan) have been "verbally instructed" to complete their harvesting and clear their fields by Tuesday.

However, the local administration and Border Security Force (BSF) has denied issuing any such directive.

The BSF has reportedly announced that the access gates to the gurdwaras in border villages in Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Fazilka districts will soon be closed. If the situation worsens, this could potentially cut off farmers' access to their lands indefinitely. As a result, farmers are urged to harvest their wheat crops and store them within the next 48 hours.

The farmers have approximately 45,000 acres of land on the 530-km international border in the Punjab sector.

Surjit Singh Bhoora, vice president of the Punjab Border Area Kisan Union, said, "The BSF officers have not given any directive in writing but told the farmers to clear the fields by Monday evening. The local officers (company commanders) called the meeting of the concerned farmers at various places and told them they had two days to cut the wheat crop and store it. Starting Tuesday, the border gates will be closed."

"Harvesting the wheat in two days seems extremely tough. Also, there is uncertainty about when to sow the paddy in the coming days if tensions between both countries escalate further," said Sarabjit Singh of Kals village in Taran Taran.

Nasib Singh of Palha village, Ferozepur district, says farmers should be allowed to go to their fields and work as long as the situation is peaceful.

BSF sources said this kind of directive has been verbally given to the farmers as part of increased security measures. "We understand the concerns of our farmers," said a BSF official on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, DCP Amritsar Sakshi Sawhney denied any such announcement made on behalf of the BSF saying it is purely a rumour that the BSF has directed wheat harvesting beyond the barbed wire within two days in border villages. "We urge people to disregard such baseless rumours... farmers are advised to clarify any such news district administration," she added.

'Farmers asked to finish harvest before heatwave'

The BSF has denied making any announcement to borderland farmers to expedite harvesting the wheat in their fields across the fencing within two days. "The farmers might have been misconstrued by some persons regarding the message following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam; the farmers have just been asked to complete their work before the intense heat wave," said a senior BSF official.

Assam to act against Aadhaar holders out of NRC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Assam government on Sunday announced crackdown on Aadhaar card holders who did not apply to get their names included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Talking to the press while campaigning for the panchayat elections on Sunday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "We will launch a major drive within next two to four days against those who obtained Aadhaar cards and are living in Assam but did not apply for the NRC."

He said the state government has already stopped issuing Aadhaar cards to those who did not apply for the NRC. "However, before we took this step, many had obtained Aadhaar cards in Assam without applying for the NRC," he added.

The chief minister also said that the state government had prepared an action plan to detect and drive out the illegal immigrants who entered Assam over the past few years.

In September last year, Sarma stated that four Assam districts had more Aadhaar card holders than the projected population. The four districts are Barpeta and Dhubri in lower Assam, and Morigaon and Nagaon in central Assam. Among these, Dhubri shares a border with Bangladesh.

"We found that 103.74% people were issued Aadhaar cards in Barpeta, 103.48% in Dhubri, 101.74% in Morigaon and 100.68% in Nagaon. Surely, suspected immigrants have managed to procure Aadhaar cards," Sarma had said.

Later in December, the state government decided that all applications for Aadhaar will be rejected unless the applicant or the family had not applied for the NRC.

The NRC of 1951 was updated in Assam in deference to the 1985 Assam Accord and with the cut-off date of March 24, 1971. Over 19.06 lakh of the 3.3 crore applicants were left out of the NRC's complete draft published in August 2019.

Meanwhile, three more persons were arrested in Assam for alleged anti-India remarks over the Pahalgam terror attack, taking the total number of such arrests to 16. The arrested trio were identified as Dadhichi Dimple alias Dimple Bora, Tahib Ali and Bimal Mahato.

BSF patrol along India-Bangladesh border in Agartala amid high alert | PTI

4 Bangladesh nationals arrested in Agartala

Security forces have arrested four Bangladeshi nationals from Agartala railway station for 'illegally' entering India, officials said on Sunday. Meanwhile, the BSF has stepped up patrolling along the India-Bangladesh border amid high alert following the Pahalgam terror attack.

MLA apologises after brash remark about Muslims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

ASSAM MLA and Raijor Dal chief Akhil Gogoi apologised for his remarks that Muslims who vote for the BJP are "kaafirs (infidels) and will be punished by God."

"I apologise to the people of Assam for what I said. I shouldn't have said so," Gogoi said in a video message with folded hands. He also tendered an unconditional apology to his party colleagues who were offended by his remarks.

"I had deviated from progressive and rational thinking. I made a mistake. I will not make such a comment in the future," the Sivasagar MLA said.

His remarks came during panchayat poll campaigning in Lakhimpur district on Saturday where Gogoi was vitriolic in his attack of the ruling BJP.

7 C'garh university teachers booked for 'forcing' students to offer namaz

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

SEVEN educators and a student leader were booked for allegedly forcing students of Bilaspur-based Guru Ghasidas Central University to offer namaz during the National Service Scheme (NSS) camp organised in the district.

The incident occurred on March 31 during the special camp organised by the university in Kota block between March 26 and April 1. During the event, 159 students participated in various community service programmes. Later, several students alleged that a programme officer and a coordinator forced them to offer namaz on the day of Eid.

Amid protests, the university had formed a three-member committee to probe the allegation. The students also filed a complaint at Koni police station in Bilaspur demanding action against the programme officer, coordinator and other teachers.

Some students claimed when they refused to perform namaz, they were threatened with deprivation of their certificates.

A police inquiry was instituted after students who returned from the camp protested, following which right-wing outfits too staged agitations seeking action against those responsible, the official said.

Bilaspur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajnesh Singh had constituted a four member committee under City SP (Kotwali) Akshay Sabadra to investigate the matter. The case was lodged on Saturday after the investigation report was submitted to the SSP.

As per the report, 159 students were forced to offer namaz during the camp at Shivtarai village in Kota, though only four among them were Muslims, a police officer said.

According to the Bilaspur police, a case has been registered against Professor Dilip Jha, Madhulika Singh, Jyoti Verma, Neeraj Kumari, Prashant Vaishnav, Suryabhan Singh and Basant Kumar, who are teachers in the Central University besides the team leader-cum-student Ayushmann Choudhary under sections 190, 196 (b), 197 (1) (b) (c), 299, 302, of the BNS and section 4 of Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Act for promoting communal disharmony and hurting religious sentiment, the official added.

"The persons named in the FIR will be served notices to be present for recording of statements. Action will be taken on the basis of further probe," the official said.

Students allege coercion

Students filed a complaint at Koni police station in Bilaspur demanding action against the programme officer, coordinator and other teachers, claiming when they refused to perform namaz, they were threatened with deprivation of their certificates.

39 affected by mystery illness after Yan camp, Kedah urges calm

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	26	11	LC	Los Angeles	17	10	SNY
Colombo	32	25	TDS	Melbourne	18	13	LC
Dhaka	34	27	LC	Moscow	5	0	LC
Dubai	42	31	SNY	New York	14	6	LR
Houston	30	22	LC	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	17	12	LR	Toronto	8	1	LC
London	17	8	SNY	Washington	23	8	TDS

Russia launches 150 drones against Ukraine

At least 3 dead, 4 injured in airstrikes on Kostyantynivka in Donetsk; Ukrainian officials say fight in Kursk still ongoing

KYIV

RUSSIA launched a sweeping drone assault and airstrikes across Ukraine early Sunday, killing at least four people, officials said, after US President Donald Trump cast doubt over Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to end the war.

Three people died and four were wounded in airstrikes on Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, the regional prosecutor's office said.

Another person died and a 14-year-old girl was wounded in a drone attack on the city of Pavlohrad in the Dnipropetrovsk region, which was hit for the third consecutive night, Gov Serhii Lysak said.

In this photo taken from a video distributed by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service, a Russian Army 152mm howitzer Giatsint-B fires towards Ukrainian positions in Kherson, Ukraine | AP

The attacks came hours after Russia claimed to have regained control over the remaining parts of the Kursk region that Ukrainian forces seized in a surprise incursion in August 2924. Ukrainian officials said the fighting in Kursk was still ongoing.

Trump said Saturday he doubts Putin wants to end the more than 3-year-old war, expressing new skepticism a peace deal can be reached soon. Only a day earlier, Trump had said Ukraine and Russia were "very close to a deal."

"There was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days," Trump wrote in a social media post as he flew back to the US after attending the funeral of Pope Francis at the Vatican, where he met briefly with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Trump also hinted at further sanctions against Russia.

The Trump-Zelenskyy conversation was the first face-to-face encounter between the two leaders since their heated Oval Office meeting at the White House on February 28.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Sunday the coming week would be "very critical," and that the US would need to "make a determination about whether this is an endeavor that we want to continue to be involved in."

Asked on NBC's "Meet the Press" about possible concessions to Russia, Rubio emphasised the need to be "grownups and realistic." *AP*

A US Marine Air Defense Integrated System, or MADIS, fires at a drone during a live-fire joint Philippines-US military exercise at the Philippine Navy training camp in San Antonio, Zambales province, northern Philippines on Sunday | AP

US deploys missiles, holds live-fire drills near China hotspots

BATAN ISLAND

THE US military has deployed an anti-ship missile launcher for the first time on Batan Island in the Philippines, as Marines unloaded the high-precision weapon on the northern tip of the archipelago, just a sea border away from Taiwan.

US and Philippine forces separately unleashed a barrage of missile and artillery fire that shot down several drones acting as hostile aircraft in live-fire drills on Sunday in Zambales province facing the disputed South China Sea.

The mock battle scenarios over the weekend in the annual Balikatan exercises between the US and its oldest treaty ally in Asia, the Philippines, not only simulated real-life war. They were also staged near major geopolitical hotspots, which have become delicate frontlines in the regional rivalry between China and the U.S. under former President Joe Biden and now Donald Trump. About 9,000 American and 5,000 Filipino military personnel took part in the combat maneuvers. At least 260 Australian personnel also joined, with smaller observer delegations from Japan and other countries.

China has fiercely opposed the combat drills as provocative. Its aircraft carrier group sailed by a few days earlier near Batanes,where the U.S. military had deployed the Navy Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System on Saturday on Batan near the Bashi Channel just south of Taiwan, a critical trade and military route that the US and Chinese militaries have tried to gain strategic control of. "The introduction of NMESIS into the first island chain for sea denial, sea control is another step in our force design journey," US Marine Lt. Gen. Michael Cederholm told a small group of journalists, including from The Associated Press, who were invited to witness the transport of the missile system aboard a C-130 Air Force aircraft to Batanes.

The US and the Philippines have denied the annual combat maneuvers — which both said would focus on a "full-scale battle scenario" this year — were aimed at China or any adversary. The lines between what's mock and real, however, have been at times murky. *AP*

Donald Trump urges 'free' transit for US ships via Panama, Suez canals

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged free transit for American commercial and military ships through the Panama and Suez canals, tasking his secretary of state with making progress "immediately."

Trump has for months been calling for the United States to take control of the Panama Canal but his social media post also shifted focus onto the vital Suez route.

"American Ships, both Military and Commercial, should be allowed to travel, free of charge, through the Panama and Suez Canals!" he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

He claimed both routes would "not exist" without the United States and said he had asked Secretary of State Marco Rubio to "immediately take care of" the situation. Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino, without directly referencing Trump, said Saturday that toll fees for the Panama Canal are regulated by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), an autonomous governing body that oversees the trade route.

"There is no agreement to the contrary," he said in a post on X. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had said during a visit to Panama City earlier this month that the United States was seeking an agreement under which its warships could pass through the canal "first, and free."

The Portuguese cargo ship MSC Maxine is pictured at the Port of Balboa at the entrance to the Panama Canal in Panama City | AFP

The United States and China are two of the top users of the Panama Canal. Egypt's Suez Canal, a key waterway linking Europe and Asia, accounted for about 10 percent of global maritime trade before attacks by Yemen's Huthi rebels on shipping routes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The Iran-backed rebels began targeting vessels after the start of the Gaza war, claiming solidarity with Palestinians, forcing ships to take a long and costly detour around the southern tip of Africa.

Egypt said canal revenues fell 60%, losing $7 billion, as US strikes on Huthis intensified under Trump with near-daily attacks. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

23-YEAR-OLD MAN DIES AT 2XU RUN

A 23-year-old man died during the 2XU Compression Run on April 27. Police were called for assistance at 6.25 am along Raffles Avenue, and the man was taken unconscious to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Investigations are ongoing, but foul play is not suspected. The event organizers expressed condolences, stating they were saddened by the loss. The run, which had over 20,000 participants, featured 5km, 10km, and 21.1km categories. This follows a similar death at the Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon last December.

INDONESIA

AGRI TIES WITH JAPAN, PALESTINE PUSHED

Indonesia plans to boost agricultural cooperation with Palestine and Japan to strengthen food security and economic growth. Agriculture Minister Andi Amran Sulaiman announced that Palestine's agriculture minister will visit in May 2025, while Japan's minister will meet officials next week to discuss agriculture initiatives.

THAILAND

FINANCIAL LINK DISCUSSED WITH LUXEMBOURG

Deputy Finance Minister Paopoom Rojanasakul discussed linking Thailand's and Luxembourg's financial hubs with Luxembourg's Finance Minister, Gilles Roth, at the 2025 Spring Meetings in Washington, DC. They explored cooperation on financial infrastructure, with both sides expressing interest in bilateral collaboration through memorandums of understanding, policy exchanges, and technical support. Paopoom outlined Thailand's goal to be a financial gateway to ASEAN, focusing on wealth management, innovation, and global markets.

Lawsuit: Migrants isolated, intimidated at Guantanamo

MOSCOW

IMMIGRATION and civil rights advocates have renewed concerns that immigrants detained at Guantanamo Bay are being held in extreme isolation, cut off from meaningful access to legal counsel or candid communication with relatives, according to a new court filing Saturday.

In a lawsuit brought on behalf or two Nicaraguan immigrants held at the US Navy base on Cuba, attorneys say there is a climate of "extreme fear and intimidation" that interferes with constitutional rights to due process and legal counsel.

The revised lawsuit asks a federal judge in Washington to intervene on behalf of all future immigrants at Guantanamo, which authorities have used as a way station for immigrants whom President Donald Trump calls "the worst," with final removal orders, as his administration seeks to ramp up mass deportations.

"Officers at Guantánamo have created a climate of extreme fear and intimidation where immigrant detainees are afraid to communicate freely with their counsel," the lawsuit says, adding that conditions are more restrictive than at mainland detention facilities, prisons and in some instances law-of-war military custody at Guantanamo Bay. *AP*

Israel says it has intercepted missile fired by Houthi rebels

JERUSALEM

YEMEN's Houthi rebels launched a missile early Sunday toward Israel, which the Israeli military said it shot down as US strikes in the Houthi-held capital of Sanaa killed two people.

Sirens sounded in parts of Israel around the Dead Sea. The military said "the missile was intercepted prior to crossing into Israeli territory."

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed the attack, saying the rebels targeted Israel's Nevatim air base with what he identified as a hypersonic missile.

American airstrikes, meanwhile, continued targeting the Houthis overnight into Sunday, part of an intense campaign against the rebels that began on March 15. The Houthi-run Health Ministry said besides the two killed on Sunday, 10 people, including two women and three children, were wounded in Sanaa.

The Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV aid footage showing responders recovering the body of a woman, one of the two killed in the Sanaa strike.

The US is targeting the Houthis because of the group's attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, a crucial global trade route, and on Israel. The rebels are the last militant group in Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" that is capable of regularly attacking Israel. Assessing the toll of the month-old US airstrike campaign has been difficult because the military hasn't released information about the attacks, including what was targeted and how many people were killed. The Houthis, meanwhile, strictly control access to attacked areas and don't publish complete information on the strikes, many of which likely have targeted military and security sites. *AP*

Iran port blast toll rises to 28, prez visits site

TEHRAN

IRAN's president visited on Sunday the scene of a massive port blast that killed 28 people and injured more than 1,000, as fires still blazed more than 24 hours after the explosion.

The blast occurred on Saturday at Shahid Rajaee Port in southern Iran, near the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

With choking smoke and air pollution spreading throughout the area, all schools and offices in Bandar Abbas, the nearby capital of Hormozgan province, were ordered closed on Sunday to allow authorities to focus on the emergency effort, state TV said.

The health ministry urged residents to avoid going outside "until further notice" and to use protective masks.

Arriving in Bandar Abbas, President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed his appreciation to first responders, adding "we have come to see first-hand if there is anything or any issue that the government can follow up on".

"We will try to take care of the families who lost their loved ones, and we will definitely take care of the dear people who got injured," he said.

Pezeshkian had previously ordered an investigation into the cause of the blast. *AFP*

11 killed in Vancouver vehicle attack, police say man had mental health issues

VANCOUVER

THE suspect in a Canadian car-ramming attack that left 11 dead at a Filipino street party acted deliberately and had a history of mental health problems, police said Sunday, warning the toll could rise.

No motive has been confirmed for the Saturday evening attack in the western city of Vancouver, though terrorism was ruled out by police.The ramming shocked the country a day before a general election dominated by US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canadian products and his threat to annex his northern neighbor, long a key ally and trading partner.

Police chief Steve Rai raised the death toll from nine and said the 30-year-old suspect driving a black Audi SUV had a "significant history" of interaction with police and mental health care professionals.

Vancouver police secure the scene after a car drove into a crowd at the Lapu Lapu Festival in Vancouver, British Columbia | AP

The Filipino community had gathered in Vancouver's Sunset on Fraser neighborhood when festivalgoers were hit by the SUV. The celebration called the Lapu Lapu Festival commemorates a Filipino anti-colonial leader from the 16th century.

Prime Minister Mark Carney, in a brief address to the nation, teared up as he addressed the tragedy."Last night families lost a sister, a brother, a mother, a father, a son, or a daughter," he said. "Those families are living every family's nightmare." An AFP reporter saw police officers at the scene Saturday evening, with parts of the festival venue cordoned off. ing, dancing and a concert, with two members of the Black Eyed. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

US deports 3 kids, one with cancer

Washington: Three American children, aged 2, 4, and 7, including one with metastatic cancer, were deported from Louisiana with their undocumented mothers, rights groups said. The deportations, carried out by ICE, were described as hasty and inhumane. The children were sent without medical care, and one mother, pregnant, was also deported. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) called the action illegal. A federal judge has scheduled a hearing over the deportation of a US citizen child to Honduras.

Syria rejects Kurds' decentralisation

Damascus: The Syrian presidency on Sunday rejected Kurdish calls for a decentralized state, warning against separatism or federalism. A statement condemned actions by the Kurdish-led SDF advocating federalism. Syria's new authorities, who replaced Bashar al-Assad in December, insist on a unitary state. Kurdish forces control much of northeastern Syria, including key oil fields. SDF chief Mazloum Abdi emphasized the conference's goal was unity, not division, and called for a decentralised Syria respecting all constituents.

18-MONTH-LONG WAR

Israeli hits in Gaza Strip kill 63, say Palestinian officials

DEIR AL-BALAH

HOSPITALS in the Gaza Strip received the remains of 51 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes in the past 24 hours, the local Health Ministry said Sunday, bringing the Palestinian death toll from the 18-month-old Israel-Hamas war to 52,347.

Israel ended its ceasefire with Hamas by launching a surprise bombardment on March 18, and has been carrying out daily waves of strikes since then. Ground forces have expanded a buffer zone and encircled the southern city of Rafah, and now control around 50% of the territory.

Israel has also sealed off the territory's 2 million Palestinians from all imports, including food and medicine, for nearly 60 days. Aid groups say supplies will soon run out and that thousands of children are malnourished.

The overall death toll includes nearly 700 bodies for which the documentation process was recently completed, the ministry said in its latest update. The daily toll includes bodies retrieved from the rubble after earlier strikes.

Israeli strikes killed another 12 people after the ministry's update. Eight of them, including three children and two women, were killed in a strike on a tent in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital. A strike in the central city of Deir al-Balah killed four people, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. Hamas has said it will only release the remaining 59 hostages. *AP*

Palestinians inspect damage after an Israeli army airstrike in Gaza City | AP

₹1.19 L CR have been attracted by hybrid mutual fund schemes in 2024-25.

Markets likely to remain volatile this week

Sentiments weakened due to geopolitical developments; analysts ask to maintain cautious approach

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S equity markets are likely to stay volatile after profit-booking dominated the last two trading sessions of the previous week. Sentiments weakened further due to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the deadly terror attack in Kashmir. However, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turning net buyers and robust Q4FY25 earnings from banking stocks provided some support.

Analysts suggest that market direction in the coming week will hinge on key domestic and global factors, including Q4FY25 earnings, India's industrial production (IIP) data, FII activity, and crucial economic indicators from the US. "The week from April 28 to May 2, 2025, is set to bring another series of crucial economic releases that could impact global market dynamics and investor sentiment. In India, attention will be on the Industrial Production (YoY) data for March, scheduled for release on April 28, which will offer insights into the strength of the country's manufacturing and industrial sectors," said analysts at Bajaj Broking Research.

Ajit Mishra, Senior VP, Research, Religare Broking said that the upcoming holiday-shortened week also marks the beginning of a new month, making monthly auto sales data a key area of focus for market participants. On the macroeconomic front, investors will closely track the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data and the HSBC Manufacturing PMI Final data. Meanwhile, geopolitical developments between India and Pakistan will remain on the radar. On the corporate earnings front, several prominent companies—including BPCL, IOC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, SBI, Bajaj Finance, TVS Motor, and UltraTech Cement—are set to release their quarterly results. Globally, updates related to tariffs and trade will also be watched closely. "In the current scenario, it is advisable to maintain a positive yet cautious approach, with a preference for hedged positions in the index. Stock-specific opportunities are likely to remain abundant on both the long and short sides. Hence, the focus should be on identifying stocks with favourable risk-reward setups," added Mishra.

Indian equity markets extended their winning streak for the second consecutive week, though gains were capped by profit booking on Friday. The Nifty50 and BSE Sensex advanced 0.80% for the week, closing at 24,039.35 and 79,212.53, respectively. The positive momentum was largely supported by progress in the bilateral trade agreement between India and the United States, alongside easing concerns over the US–China trade dispute, both of which lifted investor sentiment. Additionally, stronger-than-expected quarterly results from key banking majors contributed to the market's upward trajectory.

On a sectoral basis, the IT index emerged as the top performer with a weekly gain of 6.56%, while the Media sector underperformed, declining by 2.11%. Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group said that the RSI remaining above the 14-day SMA indicates ongoing strength. Immediate support levels are placed at 23,800 and 23,500 which also align with the 21DEMA. "On the upside, resistance is seen at 24,360, and a move above this may open the path toward 24,700. A buy-on-dips approach is considered favourable though caution is advised with potential market volatility," added Singhania.

IN CONVERSATION

ANKUR GOEL
Chief Financial Officer, Akasa Air

'Focused on creating good solid business, targeting profitability'

THE country's newest airline Akasa Air, which began its commercial operations in August 2022, recently added its 28th destination - Darbhanga, Bihar (23 domestic and 5 international cities). The airline has served over 17 million passengers since its launch. It has set aggressive expansion plans, including a high-profile aircraft deal with Boeing. On the sidelines of the recently held SAP NOW AI Tour in Mumbai, the airline's CFO **Ankur Goel** told **Uma Kannan** that they are focused on creating a good solid business and are targeting profitability. Edited excerpts:

What is your expansion plan in this fiscal year FY26?
It is the same plan that we had last year and the same we will have four years later, and it is to chase profitability. India as a country is underserved and it requires a lot more capacity to come in and that's what we are focused on. As we continue to add capacity, we will continue to augment some of the cities that we have. Navi Mumbai is going to open up this year and so is the Jewar Airport. We would want to fly to those cities as well and beyond that there will be other cities that we continue to evaluate.

What about your plans for international expansion?
We believe that international for us is here to stay and that it is just far more profitable than domestic when we look at the numbers overall. In fact, 16% of our capacity today is international and it will organically grow because we are chasing markets that are profitable and underserved. So, you will see some cities adding to our capacity. Over the next three-four years, the number could be as high as 40% for international and the rest for domestic.

Your deliveries fell short of expectation in FY25. How many new planes are you expecting to deliver in FY26?
We don't focus on the shell count. There are multiple ways to generate capacity. You can add capacity by flying your planes more and you can generate capacity by flying your planes longer. The focus for us is not how many planes are coming in, our focus is on how much capacity is getting added. In FY26, we should be one-third bigger compared to what we are today. We should roughly add 35% additional capacity in FY26 compared to FY25.

We are focused on creating a strong sustainable airline. Market share will just be an output. The last thing we would want is to have 100% of the market and 0% on the profit.

How are you looking at the competition? Any plans to increase the market share which is around 4-5%?
I don't know what the number is, we don't even track that number because that number is no indicator of success or profitability. People tell us it is around 5%. We are focused on creating a strong sustainable airline. Market share will just be an output. The last thing we would want is to have 100% of the market and 0% on the profit. So, profitability is something we are targeting. We are here to get a good solid business in which customers are happy flying with us. Market share becomes more relevant in mature markets. When India's market itself is growing at 20-25% year-on-year, the pie is expanding so much that we just don't have enough airlines and enough aircraft to take that pie. So, the question of market share just does not arise right now.

Where do you want the airline to be in terms of growth in the next five years?
I hope that you find things absolutely the same. We want to be an extremely boring airline, which means that the level of service that you expect from Akasa today should remain the same. The fact that we scale up should not mean that you got bad quality seats, bad quality products and food. For all of that internally we need to scale up and that means that every single thing that we are doing has to be significantly better so that as a customer you continue to get the same experience that you expect from Akasa which is where the technology comes in for us.

From a customer perspective, I hope that the experience remains very similar. We want to be that airline that meets the customer's expectations.

MONEY-WISE

CAVEAT EMPTOR—LET BUYER BEWARE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

IN most of my B-School classes, my students would be asked to maintain a simulated real-time portfolio. One of the key lessons they self-learnt in the process by the end of the year is that wealth creation is a process and not akin to striking the lottery jackpot overnight, the possibility of which too is one in a million to put it figuratively.

I have read several news stories in the pink papers of market operators in the guise of market educationists duping their 'student subscribers' via a chat room where they are ostensibly educated on the technique of getting 1000% returns. I honestly do not feel too sympathetic about these gullible subscribers.

If they were greedy and naïve enough at the same time to believe that such returns are possible or that there is some technique to do it repeatedly, good old Warren Buffet, the revered Oracle of Omaha might have been unheard of.

Friends, professional acquaintances and even patrons at times forward opinions of self-appointed market experts on mobile phone groups and at times even 'research' reports from 'reputed' brokerage houses suggesting the possibility ofraking in abnormal returns.

This, to my mind, is the most basic of mistakes investors make, led on by those preying on their naivety and greed. A directive in the past by the regulator was to ask certain entities registered with it to affix its logo, address and even a line on investments being subject to market risk in all its market communications.

Well, I may have been cynical but I felt even then that unless the intent was something else altogether the majority of the predators mentioned above would be unregistered fly-by-night operators who shed old and assume new identities rapidly.

Hence, further regulating the already regulated and also largely compliant, while these operators continue to remain unregulated and unfettered simply because they prey on the greed of investors, is akin to missing the woods for the trees.

Without getting into the relative impossibility of monitoring the proliferation of blatantly loaded messages by such fly-by-night operators, it would suffice to say that this is a menace that shows no sign of abating.

While the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) maintains surveillance to flush out and punish such 'educators', it remains a cumbersome task.

As is inevitable on the world wide web, such predators invariably seem a step ahead.

On our part, we repeatedly remind anyone who bothers to ask, that if only the art of investing was so easy that one could act on such pearls of wisdom (of which there is no dearth, courtesy of the hyperactive social media) and profit, then everyone ought to be doubling their wealth monthly. Alas, that must remain a pipe dream.

Hence, all we can do is once again remind investors of the Latin phrase, Caveat Emptor-Let the Buyer Beware.

AI IS REVOLUTIONISING WEALTH MGMT FOR HNIs

AJAY KUMAR YADAV
(The writer is CEO and CIO of Wise Finserv)

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is no longer a buzzword – it's a game-changer. With rising market volatility, uncertain economic fluctuations, and shifting tax regimes, high net worth individuals (HNIs) and ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNIs) are looking for smarter ways to protect and grow their wealth.

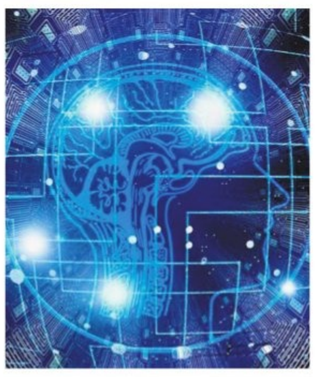
AI has transformed wealth management into real-time, data-driven, and hyper-personalised. With AI applied to investment strategies, wealth managers can now offer more detailed insights, faster decision-making, and better risk-adjusted returns.

Let us understand how AI is redefining the rules of portfolio rebalancing, restructuring, and optimisation.

1 PE-Based Rebalancing: Allocation with a Valuation Lens
AI programs now monitor Price-to-Earnings (PE) ratios across all industries and indices in real time. This facilitates dynamic portfolio rebalancing with respect to comparison against historical trends.

- When PE ratios shoot well above historic norms, AI systems recommend reducing equity exposure to prevent overvaluation hazards.
- In correction or periods of undervaluation, the same system indicates purchase opportunities on the basis of identified gaps. This keeps portfolios anchored to reality rather than reacting to emotions.

2 Equity Allocation-Based Rebalancing: A brighter balance
Asset allocation with 60:40 equity & debt ratio is balanced with AI easily. AI monitors equity weightage in real-time and cross-verifies it with the desired allocations on the basis of the movement of the market, investor objectives, and risk profiles. This keeps investment targets in line and protects against over-exposure in troubled times.



3 High Beta & High-Risk Portfolio Detection
AI-powered algorithms track a portfolio's beta – a number signaling its movement relative to the market. A high beta indicates greater volatility, meaning the portfolio is likely to experience larger swings — both upward and downward — compared to the market average.

- When AI detects a high-beta portfolio associated with a low-risk tolerance client, it automatically flags the case for review. This early detection enables financial planners to intervene proactively —whether by rebalancing the portfolio, adjusting asset allocations, or engaging the client in a timely conversation —to align the investment strategy with the client's comfort level and long-term goals. This allows pro-active restructuring based on the individual risk appetite of the investor.

4 Scheme Classification: Beta-Based segmentation
AI makes it possible to do very advanced segmentation of mutual fund schemes and equities:

- Aggressive investors may invest in high beta schemes during bull markets to capitalise on potentially higher returns.
- Low-beta schemes may appeal to conservative investors or those looking to hedge against aggressive components within a portfolio.

5 Tax Intelligence: Real-Time Optimisation AI has brought tax planning to real-time actions:

- It monitors Long-Term (LTCG) and Short-Term Capital Gains (STCG) on an ongoing basis.
- Suggests tax-loss harvesting during short-term market fluctuations, allowing investors to counterbalance gains and reduce their tax liability.
- This real-time tax know edge optimises the portfolio without delaying until year-end assessments.

6 The Power Duo: AI + Human Advisor
Whereas, AI provides automation, precision, and speed, that of the human advisor is unreplaceable. Advisors give you good judgment, emotional intelligence, and insightful thinking to help you get what you want—things computers are simply incapable of. Combine AI and advisors, and you've got a great way to manage your wealth: AI gives you the data, and advisors give you the touch.

With AI solutions, investors are able to:

- Enhance risk-adjusted returns
- Stay disciplined in chaos
- Stay in sync with valuation and macro sentiments
- Optimise taxes continuously
- Track and monitor portfolio risk agility

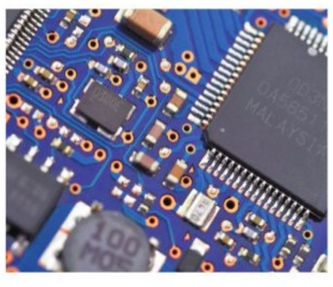
The union of AI with human expert oversight ensures portfolios are not just smart —they're future-proof.

India Inc welcomes electronics manufacturing scheme 2025

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDUSTRY leaders have welcomed the launch of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) 2025, aimed at boosting domestic production and exports in the country's electronics manufacturing sector.

The Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled the guidelines for the incentive scheme on Saturday. The scheme has an outlay of ₹22,919 crore and will be implemented over a period of six years. Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), underlined the critical importance of integrating with Global Value Chains (GVCs) to



build scale, enhance competitiveness, and develop Indian champions in the global electronics market.

"The mobile phone industry has already built a strong production base of nearly $62 billion, and now, with the ECMS, this momentum will extend deep into the components and sub-assembly ecosystem. As we move forward, integration with Global Value Chains (GVCs) will be critical to building scale, competitiveness, and Indian champions," Mohindroo said. Mayank Arora, Director-Regulatory at Nangia Andersen LLP, pointed out that ECMS now allows applicants who were acknowledged under the earlier Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) to participate under Target Segment D. He termed this a significant development, providing a pathway for stalled projects to potentially receive government support. "One of the most interesting aspects, if one goes through the granular details, is that applicants acknowledged under the SPECS scheme have been provided a fresh lease of life," he said.

Sarvam to build first homegrown AI model

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEiTY) has selected Sarvam AI, a start-up founded in July 2023, to develop India's first homegrown foundational AI model. According to Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the model is expected to exhibit advanced reasoning capabilities, optimize voice applications, and demonstrate fluency across multiple Indian languages, with a strong emphasis on secure and scalable deployment.

To support the development, the government will allocate 400 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to Sarvam AI for a period of six months. These resources will enable the start-up to work on building India's own large language model.

Lower dependence on exports cushions us from external spillovers: RBI Guv

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

WITH the advanced economies facing headwinds amidst the deteriorating global economic outlook, India continues to offer strong growth and stability, RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra has said.

He urged American industry to invest in the world's fastest growing large economy that with strong domestic demand and relatively lower dependence on exports is almost insulated from external spillovers.

"At a time when many advanced economies are facing economic headwinds and a deteriorating economic outlook, India continues to offer strong growth and stability, making it a natural choice for investors seeking long-term value and opportunity," Malhotra said de-

livering his keynote address at the US-India Economic Forum, organised by the industry lobby CII and India-US Strategic Partnership Forum in Washington DC on Friday.

Urging the American industry to invest in India, he highlighted the country's position as the fastest-growing major economy that offers policy consistency, stable macroeconomic fundamentals, and congenial business environment. Malhotra also said India offers a policy ecosystem that is transparent, rule-based, and forward-looking -- an ideal setting for long-term and productive investments. "As the world's fastest-growing major economy, we are not just a destination for investment, we are a partner in prosperity," he said, adding, "together, we've the chance to shape the future -- not only for India but for a better world. I invite you to be a part of this journey, to collaborate, innovate, and invest in India." The governor further said proactive government policies present unparalleled opportunities for investment in sunrise sectors like space, semiconductors, renewable energy, and electric vehicles, among others.

CAS stays AIFF's call to crown Churchill as I-League champs

The drama surrounding this season's I-League title continued as the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Sunday stayed the decision of the AIFF to declare Churchill Brothers as the champions on an application filed by Inter Kashi. The AIFF, on April 18, belatedly announced Churchill as the I-League champions after the its Appeals Committee ruled against Inter Kashi.

After seeing batters dominate in 2024, they have ceded some ground to pacers thanks to various factors including application of saliva

Bowlers back with a bang

GOMESH S @ Chennai

WHEN Delhi Capitals seamer Mukesh Kumar was at the start of his run-up to complete the 14th over against Lucknow Super Giants last week, the score was 110/3. Mukesh had just removed Abdul Samad with a return catch and was looking to get rid of the set Mitchell Marsh.

Mukesh ran in, aimed for an yorker, and even executed it to the point. The ball was on course to land on the crease just outside the off-stump.

But then, something happened. Just as it was nearing Marsh, the ball started to tail in. It dipped and swung just enough to beat the toe end of the bat and hit the bottom of the off-stump. Instantly, he and everyone watching it knew that this was one to be made a GIF out of and play it on loop for the days to come. It was genius execution from Mukesh, but the big picture, the one that has put smiles on pacers all around in the IPL, was that reverse swing is back in the league. And big time.

Mitchell Starc had his moment in the Super Over against Rajasthan Royals and so has several other pacers as there have been signs of reverse swing as early as 13th over in the first innings. While it has given the fans and the bowlers moments to remember, the phenomenon has reflected in the numbers as well. Significantly so.

As things stand, four of the top five wicket-takers are pacers and among them only one, Harshal Patel, has an economy over eight runs per over. Trent Boult is the only one in the top five to average over 20. It is all with good reason. The reverse swing apart, by and large, pacers have made a significant impact this season already.

This was not the case last year. Every pacer went for runs, and the wickets, more often than not came against the run of play. Barring Jasprit Bumrah, who was an anomaly, no pacers in the top ten wicket-takers operated at less than nine RPO. Totals in excess of 225 were made for fun and bowlers spent most of their time watching the ball sail into the stands.

(From L) Josh Hazlewood, Prasidh Krishna and R Sai Kishore | SPORTZPICS

Team	M	W	Pts	NRR
RCB	10	7	14	0.521
GT	8	6	12	1.104
MI	10	6	12	0.889
DC	9	6	12	0.482
PBKS	9	5	11	0.177
LSG	10	5	10	-0.325
KKR	9	3	7	0.212
SRH	9	3	6	-1.103
RR	9	2	4	-0.625
CSK	9	2	4	-1.302

Updated till RCB vs DC match

This year, there has been help from the conditions, usage of saliva on the ball and the change of balls in the second innings all has come together to make life of a bowler a tad bit easier. In return, they have shown what can be done with it. It is not just pacers, spinners like Noor Ahmed, R Sai Kishore, Kuldeep Yadav and Krunal Pandya have also made a significant difference.

Gujarat Titans pacer Prasidh Krishna is pleased to see bowlers making a significant impact this season. "It's very good that we've learnt of one bad season," Prasidh said during a media interaction on JioHotstar Press Room. "And the bowlers didn't really take too much time. They have really worked on the execution. Every single time you watch somebody go through their over. Or any bowling side go through their whole strategy, it's pretty evident that they know what they're doing. I'm very happy that the bowlers are slightly on the upper hand, the totals haven't been that high," he added.

Coming back after missing the last couple of seasons, Prasidh explained the smallest things make a big difference like applying saliva on the ball to keep the shine on one side. "It has played a bit of a part because if you look at what the ball does with the saliva on it, even if it means that one out of the 120 balls stays in a little more, that means you get a wicket," he said, before adding, "That's an extra dot ball. And if that happens at a crucial stage when the right batter gets out, that means you slow down the run rate of the team, you get the momentum back. So, it has a chain reaction kind of a thing."

In a format where the balance is already skewed towards the batters, this season has shown why pacers play a significant role when there is just a little bit of balance between bat and ball. And it has only changed for the better.

Hazlewood bringing the Josh to RCB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN episode three of the RCB Auction Planning Docu Series, available on YouTube, the team management sits and discuss their options for the pace attack. Among the names discussed are KG Rabada, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, Trent Boult and Jofra Archer.

While discussing the pace of the bowlers in particular, Rabada and Hazlewood, the suppport staff featuring Dinesh Karthik, Malolan Rangarajan and Mo Bobat discuss the accuracy and bounce the Australian brings to the table. While a lot of the auction dynamics is down to luck (where they come in the auction and the purse left among other things), Hazlewood was among the top two names they wanted.

The only concern was that he was out of action and hadn't played as much T20 cricket in recent times. However, with bowlers like Hazlewood, it seldom matters. He is relentless, ridiculously accurate and makes things happen no matter what the conditions or the format is. And that is exactly what he has shown in this edition of the IPL.

RCB batters Virat Kohli (L) and Krunal Pandya hit fifties against DC on Sunday | AP

He was already the joint-leading wicket-taker and on Sunday, Hazlewood went past Prasidh Krishna, taking his tally to 18 wickets in ten innings.

For a team that has more often than not bungled their bowling attack, this year RCB ticked all boxes in the auction and Hazlewood elevated them to the next level. He strikes up front with the new ball (seven wickets and 60 dot balls so far), breaks partnerships in the middle overs (five wickets) and closes off games in death (six wickets and 26 dots). Sunday was no different as he removed Abhishek Porel and came back to get rid of Axar Patel, setting the stage for Bhuvaneshwar Kumar to finish. In the end, Delhi Capitals could only manage 162/8 which RCB chased down with six wickets in hand.

The two experienced pacers have forged what is arguably the most skillful pace-bowling partnership the franchise has had in more than a decade. With every game they only got better as Hazlewood told broadcasters on Sunday. "Everything feels really good, feel like I'm getting better every game. I came here after a layoff and feeling better and better with my run up every game, so feels good. I think the guys did really well today, especially Bhuvi," said Hazlewood. **Brief scores:** DC 162/8 in 20 ovs (KL Rahul 41; Bhuveshwar Kumar 3/33) **lost to** RCB 165/4 in 18.3 ovs (Krunal 73 n.o, Kohli 51).

Upbeat Titans look to march on

Gujarat Titans are only two points away from tightening their hold over a play-off spot as they take on Rajasthan Royals. A look at Monday's fixture..

SEEKING COLLECTIVE SHOW

Glimpses from the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Jofra Archer have not been enough for the Royals to get points. They would look to overturn that in Monday's home fixture, but an in-form Titans may look too good in front of them.

BUTTLER MENACE

The royal's former darling Jos Buttler has just shown how good he has turned out for his new team. Rajasthan's batting lineup at present has a Buttler-shaped hole, and he can further pile up more regret on the think thank for not retaining his services.

7 JOS BUTTLER HAS THE SECOND HIGHEST CENTURIES IN THE IPL, JUST BEHIND VIRAT KOHLI (8)

Rajasthan Royals vs Gujarat Titans, Jaipur ▶ LIVE on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 7.30 pm

Mumbai juggernaut continues, crush LSG

AGENCIES @ Mumbai

IN-FORM Mumbai Indians extended their winning run with a 54-run hammering of Lucknow Super Giants, recording their fifth consecutive victory in the Indian Premier League (IPL) here on Sunday.

The hosts smashed LSG in a one-sided clash in which Suryakumar Yadav grabbed lead as tournament's leading run-scorer, with his 28-ball 54.

Suryakumar continued to plunder runs to become the leading run-scorer in this IPL, crossing the 400-run mark with his third fifty. The India T20 skipper also completed his 4,000 runs in the tournament.

Ryan Rickelton also sizzled with a 32-ball 58 that helped MI post a stiff 215 for seven being invited to take first strike.

With a handsome total to defend, Mumbai Indians juggled their bowlers cleverly as the visitors struggled to find response to the challenges thrown by the home bowlers. With his wickets column not reflecting how well he has bowled since his comeback, pacer Jasprit Bumrah finally reaped the rewards to return with impressive figure of 4-0-22-4. He broke the back of LSG's chase with three wickets in the 16th over. In the process, Bumrah also went past Lasith Malinga (170) to become MI's leading wicket-taker in IPL history. LSG's chase was also marred by another poor outing for their captain Rishabh Pant (4). They were shot out for 161 on a perfect batting surface at the Wankhede Stadium.

MI's Jasprit Bumrah (L) claimed four wickets against LSG on Sunday | AP

Brief scores: MI 215/7 in 20 ovs (Rickelton 58, Suryakumar 54, Jacks 29, Naman 25 n.o) **bt** LSG 161 in 20 ovs (Badoni 35, Marsh 34; Bumrah 4/22, Boult 3/20).

EXPRESS READ

Abhinav bags three gold in mixed team events

NEW DELHI: Abhinav Shaw bagged a gold medal each in senior, junior and youth categories in 10m air rifle mixed team event at the Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Championship here. The 17-year-old swept finished atop across categories, partnering different shooters.

Indian boxers maintain blazing run in Amman

AMMAN: Indian boxers continued their good run with as many as 14 pugilists moving to the finals of the Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships here. Nine of the 12 women's U-15 boxers competing in the semifinals won their respective bouts to progress ahead on the eighth day of competition on Saturday.

LPGA C'ship: Aditi endures another day of toil

HOUSTON: Golfer Aditi Ashok, who squeezed into the weekend action, had a rough time in the third round on a gusty and sunny day, managing a 5-over par to be placed tied 74th at the Chevron Championship here. Aditi's third round included one birdie, four bogeys and one double bogey.

Sneh Rana celebrates a wicket | SLC

Rana, Pratika help India beat Sri Lanka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

COMEBACK star Sneh Rana once again showed why she belongs in the Indian ODI setup with a three-fer as India women beat Sri Lanka in the first match of the tri-series in Colombo on Sunday. The Women in Blue dismissed SL for 147 in 38.1 overs before chasing down the target in 29.4 overs. Opener Pratika Rawal scored an unbeaten fifty to see them through the chase.

In what was a rain-interrupted 39-over a side contest, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur won the toss and opted to field. Debutant Kashvee Gautam and Arundhati Reddy made most of the moisture on the surface to keep things tight. Soon, Chamari Athapaththu fell to Reddy. Her opening partner Hasini Perera tried to keep the innings together but India spin trio — Rana (3/31), N Shree Charani (2/26) and Deepti Sharma (2/22) — kept taking wickets at regular intervals. In the end, SL were all out for 147.

In response, Rawal continued her good form and put on a strong stand with Smriti Mandhana. Once the latter got out for 43, Harleen Deol (48 n.o) and Rawal (50 n.o) took India across the line. **Brief scores:** SL 147 all out in 38.1 ovs (Hasini Perera 30; Sneh Rana 3/31) **lost to** India 149/1 in 29.4 ovs (Pratika Rawal 50 n.o, Harleen Deol 48 n.o, Smriti Mandhana 43)

Sindhu & Co suffer 1-4 loss in Sudirman Cup

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

INDIAN shuttlers had a tough day at the office on Sunday. By the time double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu walked into the court, India's fate was already sealed. Playing their first match of the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals in Xiamen (China), the team, without some key players for the marquee event, suffered a 1-4 loss against Denmark.

Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crastro, the first to enter the court in the Group D encounter, were no match for the mixed doubles pairing of Amalie Magelund and Jesper Toft. Toft, who stands around 6 feet 1 inches tall, 1 was using his height to good advantage and landing some heavy shots from behind the court to trouble the Indian duo. The Danish pair took 33 minutes to put the tie to bed, winning 21-13, 21-14.

HS Prannoy offered some resistance against World No 3 Anders Antonsen during the men's singles tie but eventually faded. Antonsen won the contest 21-15, 21-16. The team then felt the absence of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar, who featured in the men's doubles tie, barely made their opponents, Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen, sweat. The World No 1 pair asserted their dominance to score a 21-7, 21-4 win. That also meant Denmark had taken an unassailable lead. Sindhu couldn't alter the course of the match as she was also on the losing side. She did manage to put up a hard fight before suffering a 20-22, 21-23 defeat against World No 16 Line Kjaersfeldt.

Tanisha later returned to hand a consolation win for India alongside Shruti Mishra in the women's doubles category.

POOL PARTY: A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Liverpool assured their second title in the Premier League era with a 5-1 win over Tottenham on Sunday. A look at what worked for Arne Slot's men in the 2024-25 season...

Liverpool players soak in the moment after sealing the title on Sunday | AP

Mo Salah's enduring brilliance

The Egyptian king, as he is fondly known in Liverpool, has already carved a name for himself since signing for the Reds from Roma all those years ago. But this season, he has gone up a level. He's both the leader for goals (28) and assists (18) and that hasn't happened all that often. Starting on the right wing, he can both cut inside or take his man on the outside before firing crosses in.

33 Salah has 33 goals across all competitions as well as 23 assists.

Comeback specialists

If Arsenal, second favourites going into the season, dropped a lot of points after going ahead, Liverpool refused to die down. They kept coming back; in the space of a week, they came back twice against Arsenal (0-1 and 1-2 down) and against Brighton to recover four points in October and November. It's been a theme since then.

Improving the players already there

The likes of Ryan Gravenberch had had a slightly iffy season last year but he has truly blossomed under Slot's coaching. Not just Gravenberch but other players too have found a higher ceiling to touch. Cody Gakpo has come up with crucial goals while the much-maligned Darwin Nunez has also scored some big goals off the bench. At the back, the ever-reliable Virgil van Dijk has marshalled the troops ably.

RESULTS: Bournemouth 1-1 Man United; Liverpool 5-1 Tottenham.

Powering past the bottom half of the table

While the likes of Man City and Arsenal faded as they lost too many points to the league's lesser lights, what Liverpool did very well was their ability to win matches they were expected to. Against teams in the bottom half of the table, they only dropped points twice all season (Everton and Man United).

20 No of titles Liverpool have won, joint-top with Man United

A settled squad

There are two ways of looking at this. When Slot walked through the door before the start of the season, the Dutchman didn't have any new permanent signings to work with. But what he had in front of him was a settled squad, most of them in the prime of their careers. They were also helped because all of them managed to stay relatively healthy throughout the campaign.

Barcelona edge rivals Real Madrid in wild, ugly Copa del Rey final

AFP @ Seville

BARCELONA defender Jules Kounde struck deep in extra-time to decide a gripping Copa del Rey Clasico final on Saturday in Seville, earning his side a 3-2 win over rivals Real Madrid. The Catalans, aiming for a quadruple this season, won the first Major trophy of Hansi Flick's reign as coach and a record-extending 32nd Spanish cup in dramatic fashion.

Three Real Madrid players were sent off during and after a fiery conclusion to the game.

Pedri sent Barcelona ahead at La Cartuja but two Real Madrid goals in seven second-half minutes, from Kylian Mbappe and Aurelien Tchouameni, pulled the Spanish and European champions ahead.

However, Ferran Torres struck in the 84th minute to take the game to extra-time and Kounde drilled home to win it for the La Liga leaders. Substituted Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger was sent off in the final seconds for "throwing an object" onto the pitch towards referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea, according to the official's report, and Lucas Vazquez, also replaced, was dismissed for further protest as Madrid unravelled. Jude Bellingham was sent off after the final whistle for showing an "aggressive attitude" towards the referee, who wrote that the midfielder "had to be restrained by his team-mates". "I don't want to talk about the referee," said stone-faced Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti. "I don't know what happened at the end."

Madrid had issued furious statements about the refereeing team on Friday after they criticised the club's television channel for attacking Spanish officials this season, casting a shadow over the game.

Controversy aside, the football was enthralling.

Barcelona players rejoice during the trophy ceremony on Saturday | AP

Man City overcome Forest to enter FA Cup final

LONDON: Rico Lewis and Josko Gvardiol were among goalscorers as Manchester City beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 in the FA Cup semifinal at the Wembley Stadium here on Sunday. Man City will go on to face Crystal Palace in the final at the same venue on May 17.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

NCET	TS EAPCET	APPSC GROUP 1 MAINS
Date: April 29, 2025	Date: April 29 & 30, 2025	Date: May 3 to 9, 2025

The work that IIT Kanpur is putting into nurturing future-ready students, incubating start-ups, and boosting research, is commendable. **Saumya Solanki** explores its many facets

THE IIT KANPUR DIARIES

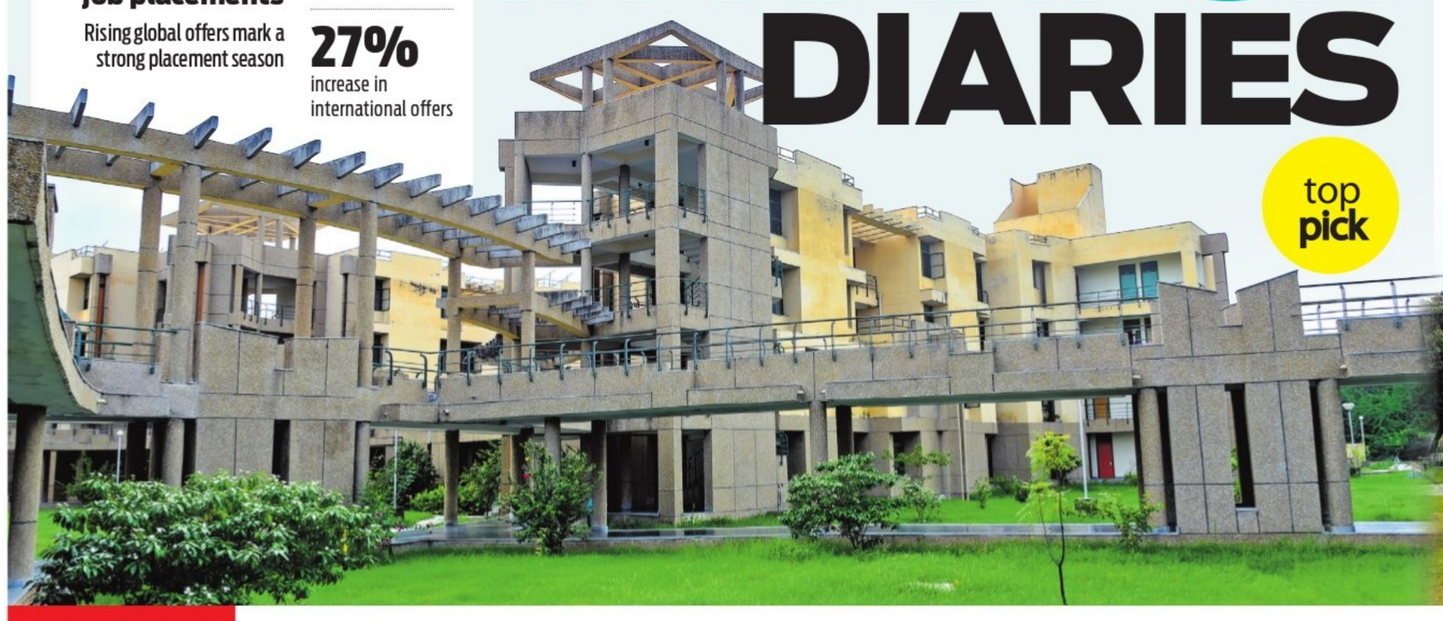
top pick

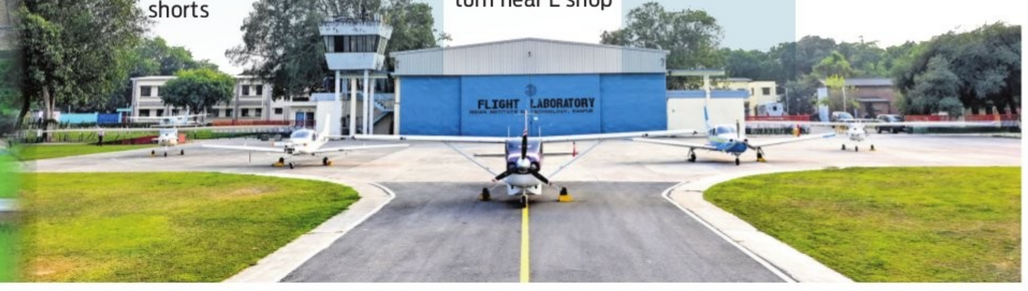
That one trend from Phase 1 of job placements

Rising global offers mark a strong placement season

Phase 1
1,109 offers
1,035 acceptances

27% increase in international offers





CANTEEN

Best hangout spot: Hall 10 canteen, CCD

Craziest campus tradition: Chai at MT after a nightout, photoshoots in blazer and shorts

Best canteen dish/ Best canteen on the campus: Best canteen is Hall 10, & best dish is Indian Chicken & Rice

Unwritten Rules: First year is for nightouts

LIBRARY

Favourite library spot: Second floor, in between the bookshelves, where desks are hidden

Most mysterious spot: The closed right turn near E shop

Best time to be on campus (like monsoon or fest season): Winters are gorgeous, spring paints the campus in all colours

Midnight hunger saviour: Mama Mio & DOAA canteen for 4 am snacks

Most competitive club/society: Mclub (Music club)

Most Insta worthy spot on campus: Faculty building rooftop, and the Nursery when flowers bloom

Rumours and/or superstitions : Don't step on the lines at flight lab orientation!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

NR Narayana Murthy
- Master's in Electrical Engineering (1969)
- Co-founder, Infosys

Pawan Goenka
- BTech in Mechanical Engineering (1975)
- Chairman of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center)

Rakesh Gangwal
- BTech in Mechanical Engineering (1975)
- Co-founder of IndiGo Airlines

Vartika Shukla
- BTech in Chemical Engineering (1988)
- Chairman and Managing Director of Engineers India

Ashwini Vaishnaw
- MTech in Industrial Management and Engineering (1994)
- Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT

Hidden gems of the campus

Lesser-known spots that make life at IIT Kanpur special

Library rooftop

Usually locked, the library rooftop sometimes is open for cleaning — if you manage to take a look, the view is totally worth it. You can see the entire campus from up there, especially stunning during sunset.

Wing roof bonfires

One of the most fun hostel traditions — gather some wood, get papads, play music, and enjoy a simple rooftop bonfire with your wingmates. It's all about the late-night chats and memories made under the stars.

SPO rooftop & the divine night skywalks

The rooftop near the Student Placement Office (SPO) is peaceful and a great place to catch the sunrise. And if you're up late, a walk along the academic area skywalk at night is a quiet and calming escape from the usual campus rush.

"At IIT Kanpur, ideas thrive without hierarchy or restrictions"

The three words that **Prof Manindra Agrawal,** Director, IIT Kanpur would use to describe its legacy are Openness, Freedom, Excellence. Here's what else he has to say about the IIT

Q&A

● Would you say IIT Kanpur's location, when compared to the location of IIT Madras, Bombay or Delhi, is or was a challenge?

Location has always been a challenge for IITK. At the same time, the location gives us certain advantages.

One is immediate access to challenges faced by large sections of Indian society. We aim to use this advantage in developing technological solutions to such problems. Another advantage is the secluded large campus — ideal for high-quality fundamental research.

● What are the qualities IIT Kanpur students are known for?

Students at IIT Kanpur exhibit an incredible passion for their interests, a driving force that empowers them to excel. This fervour, combined with a reputation for excellence, has propelled many alumni into successful careers across diverse fields.

● Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see IIT Kanpur playing towards the same vision?

By 2050, India is aiming to be a global leader in technology, sustainability, and digital transformation, competing with the world's top economies. IIT Kanpur will play a key role in this transformation by advancing AI and translational research, turning cutting-edge innovation into real-world applications. Our focus is on translational research in engineering. Specifically on intelligent systems, drones, cybersecurity healthcare, and sustainability, that directly benefit society.

● What can we look forward to from IIT Kanpur in the near future when it comes to research, innovation, and courses?

IIT Kanpur is expanding its impact through new academic programmes, research initiatives, and cutting-edge infrastructure.

With an aim to significantly enhance the development of technologies and the subsequent translation of the same into real-world applications, we have recently established Interface Office for Technology and Applications (IOTA). In addition, we have also established the Center for Educational Research and Teaching Excellence (CERTEX).

At the forefront of future tech, IIT Kanpur blends academic excellence with real-world impact, driving innovation through AI, robotics, global collaboration, and student-led breakthroughs

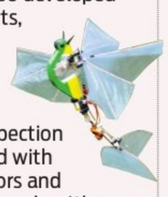
Research and innovation hub

AI and robotics

IIT Kanpur has made significant strides in AI and robotics. Recent innovations include AI-driven predictive analytics for disease detection, tuberculosis screening tools, and autonomous disaster-response drones. The Center for Developing Intelligent Systems focuses on rapid prototyping of intelligent software solutions for India-specific challenges. The institute has also developed humanoid robots, robotic exoskeletons, and an autonomous Substation-Inspection Robot equipped with advanced sensors and machine learning algorithms. Also, the Digital Health Stack project aims to transform public healthcare through MedTech devices, enhanced point-of-care services, and AI-driven chronic disease detection, infusing technology with medical research.

Global collaborations

IIT Kanpur collaborates with leading international institutions across Europe, the USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, and Russia. The institute also partners with global firms such as IBM, Microsoft, Google, Samsung, Citadel Securities, Boeing, Sony, Shell, Wavetek Microelectronics, and Keysight Technologies. These collaborations span several cutting-edge research areas.



Student-led innovations

IIT Kanpur fosters student innovation through the Startup Incubation & Innovation Centre (SIIC). Successful ventures include AI-based agritech start-ups, renewable energy solutions, and healthcare devices. The National Centre for Flexible Electronics at IIT Kanpur has supported student-led research in wearable technology and smart sensors.

STUDENTS' VOICES

Dhruv Misra, *BTech Electrical Engineering and President, Students' Gymkhana*

The best part about studying at IIT Kanpur is the respect and influence the student body enjoys. From the selection of deans to the tenders for food outlets, student representatives are not just consulted but are equal stakeholders in key policy decisions. Students have the liberty to decide the mess menu of their choice, and there are no restrictions on campus and hostel entry/exit, even during the night hours. The Students' Senate ensures robust representation from each batch.

Hamza Masood, *BTech Electrical Engineering*

At IIT Kanpur, beyond academics, students develop essential life skills like teamwork. By engaging in competitions, and a diverse range of club activities. The vibrant co-curricular environment allows us to explore new ideas, experiment, and innovate. Learning to balance studies with extracurricular activities prepares us to tackle real-world challenges.

Siddhant Jakhotiya, *BTech Computer Science & Engineering & Chairperson, Students' Senate*

Coursework at IIT Kanpur is challenging yet extremely rewarding. The rigourous content demands a sound understanding of fundamentals, and is regularly revised to meet changing standards. The best part about the UG programme is the flexibility of completing our degree in terms of course selection and various degree options. Opportunities in academia and research are further enhanced through UG projects (UGPs), course projects and internships.

ANTARAGNI

One of Asia's largest college cultural festivals, Antaragni has been a beacon of creativity and performance since 1965. What began as a modest inter-collegiate meet has evolved into a four-day spectacle of music, fashion, dance, and theatre. With over 350 colleges participating annually, the festival, entirely student-organised, hosts professional shows and competitions that pulse with energy and passion. Antaragni isn't just a fest; it's an emotion that unites thousands in the celebration of art and talent.

Iconic events & traditions

Student-led festivals and celebrations that light up IIT Kanpur's campus life

TECHKRITI

Held every March since 1995, Techkriti is IIT Kanpur's annual technical and entrepreneurial fest. It brings together innovation and competition through events in AI, robotics, aerospace, and sustainability. With international participation and a strong emphasis on societal impact, Techkriti stands out as more than a festival — it's a launchpad for young minds to challenge the present and create the future.

LANTERN FLYING FESTIVAL

Around Diwali, the campus comes alive with glowing lanterns rising into the night sky. The Lantern Flying Festival, a part of Hakuna Matata tradition, sees students who stay on campus during Diwali — including many from international backgrounds — gathering to light and release paper lanterns. Each floating light carries a wish, a dream, and the shared spirit of celebration, making it one of the most serene and heartwarming campus experiences.

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28.04.2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Album launch

On this day in 1973, the album 'Dark Side Of The Moon' by Pink Floyd went to No 1 on the US album charts. It became a record-breaker

THE CONCEPT

The album had songs about broader topics such as wealth, armed conflict, madness, squandered existences and death. Originally, it was about the pressures of life as a musician

RECORDING

Pink Floyd convened at Abbey Road Studios in May 1972 to begin tracking the album. They assigned Alan Parsons to engineer the record

POPULARITY

Pink Floyd's eternally popular song cycle has sold more than 15 million copies in the US, since its release in 1973

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 8

CHEF MASSIMO BOTTURA, THE 'BEST CHEF IN THE WORLD', WHO GAVE A TASTE OF HIS SIGNATURE DISHES TO BENGALUREANS AT A PRICE OF ₹50,000 PER MEAL, SPEAKS TO *CE* ABOUT THE INSPIRATIONS BEHIND HIS FOOD, ENJOYING A YELE OOTA, AND MEETING LATE POPE FRANCIS

MADE IN MODENA

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

"THESE are all titles that I don't care about every day. These are not things that influence your life. What I really care about is the future," says chef **Massimo Bottura**, who is widely regarded as the 'best chef in the world', with his Michelin 3-star restaurant Osteria Francescana in Modena, Italy, having been declared 'The Best Restaurant in the World' by The World's 50 Best Restaurants, once in 2016, and again in 2018. Bottura, a visionary known for revolutionising Italian cuisine by pushing the boundaries of the 'nonna' style of cooking (a way of preparing food with simple, classic techniques, often using fresh, seasonal ingredients) explains that his preoccupation is with constant innovation. "Most of the time, people don't understand what you're doing and why. Last year's tasting menu was called Globale with flavours that are part of the Italian market right now. People said 'this is crazy' and that I'm 'contaminating Italian cuisine' but no, I'm just shaping the future. In 10 years, everyone is going to cook like this," he asserts.

Visiting the city for the first time recently for a pop-up at The Leela Palace Bengaluru, Bottura brought his signature dishes like Oops I Dropped the Lemon Tart, The Crunchy Part of the Lasagne, and Psychedelic Cod Not Flame Grilled, to an exclusive audience, charging ₹50,000 per meal (excluding alcohol). Speaking to him about food means listening to him connect Picasso's works to Lou Reed's music and tie them into an explanation about the source of his creativity. "It's one of my biggest passions for 45 years and it [art, music, poetry, and cooking] is all part of the same page," he explains, adding, "Culture helps you open unexpected doors, and then, you keep working and experimenting."

Bottura's culinary roots can be traced back to the place Osteria Francescana sits and where he grew up, surrounded by the cooking of his mother and grandmother – Modena. It was here, that Bottura learnt something he prioritises in his work to this day: the value of sustainability and community. "Modena is called the food valley of Italy. It's where Balsamic vinegar is created, but also parmigiano, prosciutto – all the iconic products of Italy. When your life becomes successful, you learn to give back; our first goal was fighting food waste," says Bottura, who has been named a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) advocate by the UN. Recalling a brief conversation with the recently-deceased Pope Francis regarding the same, he shares, "It's so insane that in 2025, we have to keep fighting [to reduce food waste] and keep trying to raise awareness. Pope Francis was like that too. When we met at the G7 Summit, he said, 'What about your refettorio (soup kitchen)?' I told him we had 13 of them and he said, 'That's very good, that's what the world needs – people who think about others.'"

Having visited India, particularly Delhi and Mumbai, when asked how he sees India's culinary landscape, Bottura confesses it to be the reason why he keeps returning. "India, Mexico and China have always had great cuisines but very nostalgic. Something I noticed after coming back here is that Indian cuisine is now getting more contemporary and culturally open," he says.

In his time in Bengaluru, Bottura has managed to sample a yele oota. "We spent the evening experiencing a classic dinner on banana leaves, with different elements, eating with our hands. The flavours – from spiciness to sweetness to moving from one preparation to another – were amazing. I really love it because we were playing with the food and moving things around. It is more the ritual of eating together that makes it so memorable," he says.

Oops! I dropped the lemon tart

Camouflage Rice

Marco Poderi

India, Mexico and China have always had great cuisines but very nostalgic. Something I noticed after coming back here is that Indian cuisine is now getting more contemporary and culturally open

Massimo Bottura, celebrated chef

PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

PICS: NAGARAJA GADEKAL, SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Runners passing by Vidhana Soudha

Tejasvi Surya with wife Sivasri Skandaprasad

A biker who arrived to cheer

Participants of the Maija Run

RUNDAY X SUNDAY

Thousands of participants took part in the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, the popular 10-kilometre-long annual race. Sanjivani Jadhav came first in the Indian Elite Women category, while Abhishek Pal won in the Indian Elite Men category, while also ending up at the 7th spot in the International Elite Men category. Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka DK Shivakumar cheered the runners, while BJP Member of Parliament Tejasvi Surya joined the race, clocking a finish at 1.09.

CITY READ

Jewellery brand opens new store in city

Tanishq, an Indian jewellery retail brand owned by the Tata Group, recently launched a new store at Nexus Mall, Koramangala, which was inaugurated by Ajoy Chawla, CEO – Jewellery Division, Titan Company Limited, in the presence of actor Ramya. The new store offers a showcase of Tanishq's iconic designs. Speaking at the inauguration, Chawla said, "The store offers an elevated shopping experience and showcases some of our finest collections including Rivaah, String It, Stunning Earrings, Aveer for men, Kalai, and many more, with a design language that seamlessly blends tradition and modernity, in tune with the evolving Indian woman's aspirations."

City to embrace arts and crafts mela until May 11

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram, is hosting an arts & crafts fair titled Meena Bazaar at their premises which will be open till May 11, featuring stalls on women's clothing, fashion accessories, perfumes, footwear, imitation jewellery, home appliances, and children's toys. With over 90 stalls, the fair showcases popular names like Bombay Fabric, Kurta King, Delhi Bazaar, Umang Fashion, and Mariam Fashion, presenting a wide range of summerwear and home decor. The event also features items handcrafted by artisans from across India, representing the diverse cultural traditions of both North and South India.

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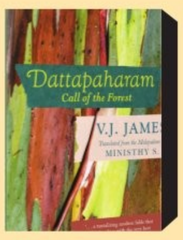
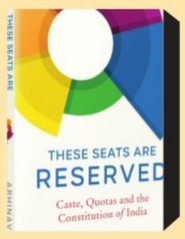
BOOK NOOK



Dattapaharam: Call of the Forest

By VJ James, Ministhy S

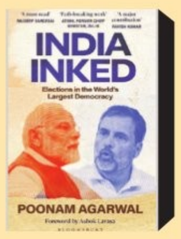
A rumination on solitude, man's connection with nature, and the strings that attach us to this world, this is a surreal novel where the author's imagination soars like an eagle.



These Seats Are Reserved: Caste, Quotas and the Constitution of India

By Abhinav Chandrachud

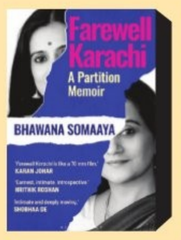
Reservation or affirmative action is a hugely controversial policy in India. While constitutionally mandated and with historians, political scientists, and social activists convinced of its need, many resist it and consider it to be compromising 'merit' and against the principle of equality of opportunity.



India Inked: Elections in the World's Largest Democracy

By Poonam Agarwal

When Poonam began reporting on the electoral bonds scheme, she had not foreseen that her work would make history in one of the most landmark SC judgements. In her trailblazing pursuit, she chased the difficult questions.



Farewell Karachi: A Partition Memoir

By Bhawana Somaaya

Spanning over a hundred years and five generations, it is the story of a family planting its roots anew in a country at the cusp of a violent Partition.

BUT FIRST, COFFEE

Visitors browse through different coffee products during the India International Coffee Festival held recently at Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

SWEET POTATO DELIGHT

INGREDIENTS

- **Sweet potato:** 500g
- **Refined flour:** 5 tbsp
- **Desiccated coconut:** 1, grated
- **Mawa/khoa:** 1/2 cup
- **Sugar syrup:** 1 cup
- **Cardamom powder:** 1/2 tsp

METHOD

- Boil the sweet potatoes and then mash it, making sure that there are no lumps.
- Add refined flour in the mashed sweet potatoes to make a smooth dough. Keep it aside.
- To make the filling, add the coconut, sugar, mawa/khoa, and a pinch of cardamom powder in a pan. Stir till the water dries up.
- Make small balls out of the dough and put a little coconut filling inside. They can be rounded or flattened a bit.
- Deep fry the balls in low flame till it is brown in colour.
- Keep it aside to cool down, dip the balls into the sugar syrup and serve.

Contributed by **Arpita Som,** West Bengal

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My indie cat, a half-stray female, has her vaccines done. She is 7. Are there more tests she should be doing every year at this age?

At seven years, your indie girl, presuming she is spayed, is entering her senior years, making regular annual check-ups essential. In addition to keeping up with vaccinations, consider regularly doing a senior blood panel to check kidney, liver, and thyroid tests. It is advised to include a urine exam, dental examination, and weight monitoring. If there are any noticeable physical or behavioral changes, your vet might recommend X-rays or an ultrasound. Ongoing parasite prevention and heartworm testing remain important. Early detection of issues can help her stay healthy.

FITBIT

PHALAKASANA VARIATION KNEE TO NOSE (PLANK POSE VARIATION KNEE TO NOSE)

This variation of the Plank Pose is suitable for beginner or intermediate fitness students, given the levels of stretch, strength and balance required. It enhances core muscle engagement in a creative way and strengthens the psoas, gluteus, hamstrings, obliques, hip flexors, quadriceps, biceps, triceps, and abdominals. Included in Power Yoga and Vinyasa as part of a core warm-up sequence, this pose can also serve as a cardiovascular workout.

STEPS

- Begin in Makarasana (Crocodile Pose). From here, move into Bharmanasana (Table Top Pose).
- Align your wrists under your shoulders and knees under your hips. Arms and torso should be parallel to the floor. Stretch your legs into Phalakasana (Plank Pose) and hold for two breaths.
- Inhale, draw your belly in, press your palms into the floor and lift the right leg. Those unable to lift one leg directly from Plank Pose may first transition to Adho Mukha Svanasana, then lift and bend the right knee.
- Exhale as you draw the bent knee towards your chest and tuck the chin to bring the nose towards the knee. Simultaneously lift your shoulders, slightly round the upper back and curl the torso to allow the knee to move deeper. Internally rotate the right hip for a little extra flexion.
- Maintain alignment: shoulders over wrists, hands parallel, back leg long and active, bent knee engaged, chest and ribcage drawn in, core muscles engaged, chin close to the chest, and complete the exhalation.
- Look softly towards the navel. Remain here as per capacity. Exhale fully to deepen the hold.
- Inhale to release the right knee, lengthen the leg and return to Plank (Phalakasana). Relax and exhale completely. Repeat on the opposite side.
- Release and return to Plank (Phalakasana). Finally, gently lower the hips and rest in Balasana (Child's Pose).

BENEFITS

- Opens the muscles of the back, shoulders, and anterior torso.
- Aligns arms, shoulders, core, pelvic floor, and spine.
- Primarily strengthens arms, wrists, shoulders, abdominals, and core.
- Improves core strength with emphasis on the abdominal region.
- Stabilises and strengthens the core, wrists and shoulders.
- Engages joints (ankles, hips, shoulders, wrists), enhancing overall strength.
- Fosters breath-body coordination.
- Promotes mindfulness of muscle and joint engagement.
- As an asymmetrical flow, activates both brain hemispheres, promoting mental balance.
- Engages the Solar Plexus Chakra, igniting the digestive fire (Jatharagni).
- Aids in digestion, metabolism, and overall health.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with any injuries; those recovering from abdominal surgery; individuals with chest, rib-cage, arm or shoulder issues; or suffering from arthritis (knees), migraine, high blood pressure, vertigo, dizziness, gastrointestinal problems, metacarpophalangeal arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, tendinitis or bursitis; those lacking a body-breath connection or sufficient strength; seniors, and pregnant women, should avoid.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Camp Day

Turn your ordinary day into an epic adventure by heading outdoors and engaging in activities, exciting challenges, and fun games. Open to all ages, the highlights of the event include soft adventures, camp games, and picnic meals.

WHEN: April 28, 9am onwards
WHERE: Rocksport Bengaluru, Kanakapura Main Road
DETAILS: district.in

Guitar Groove

Commemorate this Jazz Day by joining a guitar workshop that honours the life of Dr Thomas Chandy who was an active and beloved member of the jazz community in the city. Register at this event for free and take your friends along to enjoy a day of music and learning.

WHEN: April 29, 4pm
WHERE: Yamaha Thomsun Showroom, Indiranagar
CALL: 95351 94683

Splish Splash

This summer vacation, take your child for a splash-tastic adventure with a magical marine-themed experience specially curated for kids aged two-14 years. This event is a full-blown underwater fantasy that promises fun, learning, and unforgettable moments for every child.

WHEN: April 28, 11.30am
WHERE: Forum South Bengaluru, Konanakunte
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Boho Brushes

Learn how to paint on canvas by mixing different mediums and creating depth on a wooden canvas with this beginner-friendly workshop. Take home your very own masterpiece and make loads of memories.

WHEN: April 28, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout **DETAILS:** allevents.in

Find your Beat

Attend this dynamic workshop led by drummer Wesley Newton as he dives deep into the essential elements that transform a good drummer into a great musical force! Priced at ₹1,000, this event is open to drummers of all levels.

WHEN: April 29, 5pm
WHERE: The Blue Room, Jayanagar
CALL: 99727 67963

Girl's Girls

Round up your girl gang and head to this event to get unlimited cocktails and complementary starters while DJ Electro Smashers play all-time Bollywood hits. Groove your Monday blues away and enjoy a 50 per cent discount on food.

WHEN: April 28, 8pm onwards
WHERE: The Boozy Griffin, Koramangala
DETAILS: highape.com

Play with Puzzles

Whether you loved puzzles as a kid, enjoy them now, or want to pick up a new hobby, this event is for you. Have a relaxed, off-screen evening in a social setting where you can piece together beautiful images and get a little competitive with some speed puzzling or puzzle chess!

WHEN: April 28, 6.30pm
WHERE: Underline Center, Domlur
DETAILS: district.in

ARTCORNER

RURAL RESILIENCE

Artist Rabin Bar reflects the resilience of his rural upbringing through his solo artwork

A SHARADHAA

A brooding thriller with the familiarity of TV soaps

AYYANA MANE

Cast: Kushee Ravi, Manashi Sudhir, Hitha Chandrashekar, Anirudh Acharya, Akshay Nayak, and Ramesh Indira

Director: Ramesh Indira

Streaming on: Zee5

A haunted house, a newlywed bride, and secrets that whisper through the walls—*Ayyana Mane* plays like a page straight out of a folklore that is stitched into a sleek six-episode mystery. Directed by Ramesh Indira and produced by Shruti Naidu, this brooding thriller walks a delicate tightrope between the familiar comforts of television and the creative liberties of streaming.

Set in the lush, rain-washed 90s of Chikkamagaluru, *Ayyana Mane* begins with a hopeful newly-married woman Jaaji (Kushee Ravi) who steps into her husband Dushyantha's (Akshay Nayak) ancestral home—an almost too-quiet place shadowed by grief. Moments later, her father-in-law dies, and from that point on, the house seems to simmer with unease. Each creak in the floorboard and each sideways glance hints at something darker. It is at this point that another chilling discovery emerges—a trail of daughter-in-law deaths, stretching through generations.

The story unfolds in approximately 20 minute episodes, designed to hook viewers and not linger—a structural win. Each episode leaves you hanging just enough to hit the next episode button, and it is here that the show quietly flexes its format—a web series that chooses restraint over indulgence, rarely straying into filler or loud melodrama.

Interestingly, *Ayyana Mane* also carries another label—it's Zee5's first original Kannada web series. While that's a notable move for regional content, it's also begs to ask a bold question: Can this series break away from the traditional TV template that has long defined Kannada storytelling? Can it claim the freshness that the OTT space offers?

Ramesh Indira builds the mystery using an interesting blend of whodunnit and folk horror. The show taps into the cultural echoes of Daiva worship—a spiritual element that found wide popularity after Kantara. The mysterious Kondarayya, a spirit-like presence, becomes central to the narrative: is he a protector, or is his wrath behind the tragedy? The question lingers throughout, adding a folk-horror sheen to what is otherwise a grounded domestic thriller.

RATING 2.5/5

Performance-wise, Kushee Ravi does most of the heavy lifting. Her character Jaaji is innocent but observant, fearful but never passive. It is through her eyes that we read many silences in the house—from her mother-in-law Nagalambike (Manasi Sudhir), the disturbed Charulatha, an unsettling cameo by Archana Kottige, and the uneasy Dushyantha, who is an emotionally opaque husband trying to shield secrets under the guise of tradition. Even director Ramesh Indira plays a role in the series. The other cast members—including Hitha Chandrashekar as Pushpavathi, Anirudh Acharya, and Akshay Nayak—bring depth without overplaying it, though some characters could have benefited from more nuanced development.

Technically, the show is a quiet win. Rahul Roy's cinematography wraps the story in low-lit tension. There's no overuse of flashy lighting or dramatic music—instead, the mood and atmosphere is lifted through meticulous restraint. Chikkamagaluru isn't glorified either. It feels lived in, slightly cold, almost like the house is breathing along with the story.

And yet, for all its craft and effort, *Ayyana Mane* can't completely shrug off its television roots. The storytelling dips into familiar zones—the overprotective mother, the emotionally distant husband, kitchen scenes loaded with tension, and red herrings that feel a bit too convenient. There's also the case of themes that are touched but not explored— trauma, mental illness, grief, and gender politics—all are hinted at but left underdeveloped.

The plot's biggest twists lean toward safety, and while they hold your attention, they don't exactly shake you. What starts as a potentially rich psychological mystery, slowly settles into a more straightforward whodunnit.

However, what works in *Ayyana Mane* is its intention. It doesn't want to be loud. It doesn't want to stretch forever. And even when it plays safe, it's trying to deliver a better product than what Kannada TV viewers have been fed for decades. That in itself deserves some credit.

If you're someone used to Kannada television, this might feel like a much-needed upgrade—minus the over-the-top performances, and deafening music. If you're a regular OTT viewer, it's a decent weekend watch — one that brings a whiff of homegrown storytelling, even if it's not entirely pathbreaking.

Ayyana Mane is a modestly gripping, atmospherically told series. It doesn't push boundaries, but it doesn't embarrass either. It's a welcome step into original Kannada storytelling. For viewers, it's a reminder that sometimes, even a house full of ghosts can feel strangely familiar.

Mysterious masked man steals the spotlight in *Green* teaser

CE FEATURES

Green, directed by Raaj Vijay, is about the monster within. The makers revealed the teaser on Saturday, promising a chilling visual treat filled with mystery, darkness, and psychological depth. Speaking to CE, director Raaj Vijay shared insights into his vision for the film, describing it as a psychological thriller that steps away from conventional storytelling. "The teaser follows a regular pattern, with something new. Coming from a VFX and animation background, I wanted the filmmaking style to be different," says Raaj. "Structurally and visually, it's nothing short of a Hollywood film, made in Kannada."

Green introduces a layered world with characters full of intrigue. Gopal Krishna Deshpande, as Mayanna, plays the protagonist, while Balaji Manohar takes on the role of an army officer. Shiva Manju plays a police officer, and RJ Vikki portrays Rajeeva—a character with disabilities who displays cyborg-like behavioural patterns—adding further dimensions to the film's narrative. Vishwanath Mandalika plays Johnny, another character shrouded in curiosity. "Each character plays a crucial role, especially in the climax," Raaj reveals.

Interestingly, there is only one female character—played by Dimpy Fadhya—who essays the role of a mother, among a few other characters. The teaser runs for 1 minute and 54 seconds, and even within this short span, it offers a visual glimpse that includes at least one well-placed jump scare.

One of the biggest talking points from the teaser is the mysterious masked man—neither the character's name nor the actor portraying him has been revealed. Yet, his ominous presence dominates the teaser, exuding danger and mystery. He emerges as one of the major highlights of the teaser for *Green*, which the makers say intentionally blurs the lines between psychological fear and real-world threats. "It's about the overwhelming struggles we face when our own thoughts and fears start to control us." The film explores how these 'monsters' grow if left unchecked, turning inward pain into destructive energy.

With Ravi Films now handling theatrical distribution, the film is aiming for a May-end release. It has already made waves at several international film festivals, winning awards and being hailed as a breath of fresh air. Produced under the Bourn Films banner, in collaboration with Savika Enterprises and co-produced by BN Swamy, *Green* also features music composed by Sak Shakthi. Director Raaj Vijay has plans to explore a multiverse concept in the film, more details of which will be revealed later.

Gopal Krishna Deshpande

Manasi Sudhir

Vikki

Team Green

A still from the film

DHRUVA SARJA PRESENTS *PUPPI*, CAPTURING NORTH KARNATAKA'S HEARTFELT HUMOUR

CE FEATURES

Puppi, an upcoming Kannada film led by Dhruva Sarja, explores the essence of North Karnataka's Javali dialect and culture. Directed by Ayush Malli, the film blends comedy and emotion, and it has earned praise in the industry for its perfect balance of humour and heartfelt moments. "The film is a roller-coaster of emotions, bringing to life comedy deeply rooted in our culture," says Dhruva Sarja, who is presenting the film. "It's not just about making the audience laugh but also connecting with them emotionally. That's the magic of *Puppi*," Dhruva adds. The film, releasing on May 1, follows two young boys navigating life's struggles. It has a strong cast, including Jagadeesh Koppla, Aditya Sindhanur, and Rithwik Ballari.

Dhruva, known for action-packed roles, says he always wanted to do something different, and *Puppi* gave him that opportunity of supporting a film. As per the makers, it touches on serious themes while keeping the humour intact. "The local dialect and cultural authenticity make it special," Dhruva says.

A still from the film

Sharing his vision, director Ayush Malli stated, "When I first read the script, I was drawn to the emotional core. The film reflects our culture, with humour that feels close to home." At a recent promotional event, Dhruva spoke about the camaraderie on set. "The team really came together. The chemistry, especially with the younger actors, was incredible," he says. Ayush adds, "We didn't overdo the promotions, but the feedback has been overwhelming. After the trailer release, Dhruva called and said, 'I'll support you in every way I can.' His passion for the project made this experience even more memorable."

The film's focus on local humour and emotions has garnered praise from industry veterans. "What sets *Puppi* apart is its authenticity in story and characters," Dhruva says. "I hope Kannada audiences embrace this film."

Actor Rana Daggubati's interest in acquiring the Telugu remake rights proves the film's appeal. "It's exciting that *Puppi* caught the attention of such a big name," says Ayush. With a strong local flavour, *Puppi* aims to captivate diverse audiences and celebrate North Karnataka's cultural richness.

Emma Mackey joins Greta Gerwig's *Narnia*

EMMA Mackey is all set to play the evil queen, the White Witch, in the upcoming adaptation of CS Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* books. The film, backed by Netflix, reunites *Sex Education* star Mackey with Greta Gerwig after 2023's *Barbie*. Gerwig will be writing and directing the upcoming film, reportedly based on the sixth *Narnia* book, *The Magician's Nephew*. Mackey is taking over the role from Tilda Swinton, who played it in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2005). Meanwhile, Meryl Streep is in negotiations to play Aslan, the lion who is Narnia's guardian and guide for the entire community that resides in it. The White Witch, also known as Jadis, is the main antagonist in *The Magician's Nephew* and the *Narnia* book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. She turns her enemies into statues and is infamous for bringing eternal winter to Narnia. The upcoming film is scheduled to debut in theatres on Thanksgiving Day in 2026. Gerwig has been attached to the Narnia project since 2020. Netflix acquired the rights to film the beloved fantasy series in 2018 and aims to turn it into a major franchise.

Mackey also stars alongside Glen Powell and Jenna Ortega in JJ Abrams' upcoming Warner Bros feature. Her upcoming films also include a role in Julia Ducournau's *Alpha* and James L Brooks' comedy *Ella McCay*.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, K. ARMUGAM Residing at No. 19, Neela Nivas, Sangolirayanna Road, 80 feet, 4th Cross, Subbanapalya, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560033 hereby state that in my Son A. SABARIVASAN'S school records names existing as
1. **ARUMUGAM** to be rectified as **K. ARUMUGAM,**
2. **AMUDHA** to be rectified as **A. AMUTHA**
3. **SABARIVASAN. A** to be rectified as **A. SABARIVASAN**
vide affidavit dated 01-04-2025 before notary C.V.Erappa, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Nagraj Krishnamurty Sakrepatna,** aged 48, residing at 237, Yoganilaya, 1st Cross, 5th Main, Telecom Layout, Srirampura, Jakkur Post, Bengaluru-560064, hereby declare that my minor Son's name is **ARJUN NAGRAJ SAKREPATNA** as per his Aadhar Card but in his Birth Certificate it is wrongly mentioned as **ARJUN NAGARAJ S.** Henceforth his name will be **ARJUN NAGRAJ SAKREPATNA** in all his records and documents vide affidavit dated 26.04.2025 sworn to before Notary **H Sridhar Rao,** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMIT KISHORE** aged about 42 Years R/at No. 27, Divya Jyothi Coconut Grove Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore -560100 that in some of my records my father's name is wrongly spelt as **BHUBNESWAR PRASAD.** His correct name is **BHUNESWAR PRASAD** as in my Adhar card & consider as **BHUNESWAR PRASAD** in all future records & sworn affidavit dated 26.4. 25 before **K.V.MANI** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GAYATRI BISWAS, D/o Ramchandra Sarkar, wife of Tapan Kanti Biswas, Residing at #125, Maruti Layout, Chinnapanahalli, Marathalli, Bangalore North, Marathahalli Colony, Bangalore 560037**
have changed my name from GAYATRI SARKAR to GAYATRI BISWAS
vide Affidavit Dated: 17-09-2024
Sworn to before Advocate & Notary Deepa .M, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, undersigned **KANCHANA**, residing at #1408 A Mantri Tranquil Apartment, Gubalala, Doddakallasandra Post, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-560062, Karnataka, India. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KANCHANA TIRUNAVK ARASU** to **KANCHANA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **KANCHANA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25/04/2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **R. BASAVARAJA** at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANAULLA SHARIEF NOORULLA SHARIEF,** Aged about 42 years, S/o **NOORULLA SHARIEF** residing at No.70, 3rd Cross Road, 1st Main, Bannerghatta Road, Behind Masjid E Munawara, New Gurappana Palya, Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name as **SANAULLA SHARIEF,** vide affidavit dated 24-04-2025 before Notary Public **ARAVIND PATIL G.G.,** B'lore.

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Gold Glitters Bright on Akshaya Tritiya as Prices Soar and Traditions Shine

Akshaya Tritiya, also known as Akha Teej, is one of the most significant and auspicious days in the Hindu and Jain calendars. This festival, celebrated on the third day of Shukla Paksha in the month of Vaisakha, is a symbol of prosperity, good fortune, and the promise of never-diminishing wealth. In 2025, the festival will be observed on April 30, with the most auspicious puja time falling between 5:40 AM and 12:18 PM.

One of the central elements of Akshaya Tritiya is the tradition of purchasing gold. Rooted in both mythology and cultural practices, buying gold on this day is believed to bring enduring prosperity and good luck. As such, families across India celebrate the occasion by purchasing gold jewellery, coins, or investment-grade bullion, making it one of the country's largest gold-buying festivals.

The price of gold has seen a notable rise over the past year. Several key factors have contributed to the rise in gold prices. Global economic uncertainty, driven by geopolitical tensions, inflation, and fears of a recession, has led many investors to view gold as a safe haven. In addition, robust purchasing by central banks, particularly in emerging markets, has further supported prices. Domestically, a weak rupee and high festive demand in India have also contributed to the upward trend.

Impact of Gold Prices on Akshaya Tritiya Celebrations

Despite the rise in gold prices, the demand for gold during Akshaya Tritiya is expected to remain strong. For many Indian families, the cultural and emotional significance of purchasing gold on this day outweighs concerns about price. While some may purchase smaller quantities of gold due to higher prices, the overall value of gold transactions during the festival is expected to remain resilient.

Looking ahead, the outlook for gold remains positive. Analysts predict that gold prices could reach Rs. 1 lakh per 10 grams by the next Akshaya Tritiya if current trends continue. As gold continues to be seen as both a cherished tradition and a high-performing investment, Akshaya Tritiya 2025 will likely reinforce its reputation as the festival where tradition and financial prudence intersect.

As global and domestic factors continue to influence the price of gold, Akshaya Tritiya will undoubtedly remain a key occasion for gold buying in India, with families continuing to celebrate the festival by investing in gold as a symbol of prosperity and a safeguard for the future.

Shree Sai Gold Palace
A LEGACY OF PURITY AND PROSPERITY

In a city rich with culture and commerce, Shree Sai Gold Palace has emerged as a trusted name in the world of fine jewellery. From its humble beginnings in 1999, when Dr. T.A. Sharavana set up a small showroom in Basavanagudi, the brand has grown into a household name with seven flourishing outlets—the latest one lighting up Malleshwaram.

Speaking with calm conviction, Dr. Sharavana, who is also the President of the Karnataka Jewellery Association, reflects on the journey that has been built on the foundation of faith, ethics, and quality. "Purity is our first priority. We never compromise on quality or integrity. Whether a customer buys or simply walks in, they are treated like they have entered a Sai Mandira," he says.

At Shree Sai Gold Palace, the shopping experience is elevated to a spiritual level. For Dr. Sharavana, jewellery is more than commerce—it's a blessing shared. Every customer, regardless of the size of their purchase, is received with equal warmth. "Even when someone buys something as small as a ₹50 product, they compare prices across stores before deciding," he notes. "Now imagine the importance of trust when it comes to precious metals like gold, silver, and diamonds. We want every customer to leave here not just happy—but feeling prosperous."

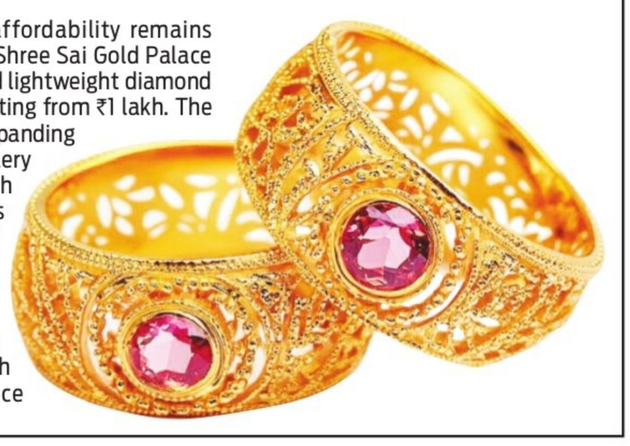
This philosophy is deeply embedded in the store's service culture. Staff are trained not only in product knowledge but also in empathy, attentiveness, and tradition. This ethos has helped Shree Sai Gold Palace build a loyal base of customers who return not just for jewellery, but for a sense of belonging.

With a vast and ever-evolving inventory, the store caters to every generation. Whether it is temple jewellery, antique pieces, modern lightweight ornaments, or contemporary diamond sets, the designs at Shree Sai Gold Palace represent the cultural craftsmanship of every state in India. "We work directly with artisans and manufacturers across the country," explains Dr. Sharavana. "That way, we can offer new collections every month, each one reflecting a unique regional aesthetic."

Dr. T.A. Sharavana

Even as gold prices edge close to ₹10,000 per 10 grams of 24-carat purity — Dr. Sharavana believes that the upward trend, which he expects to touch ₹12,000 to ₹13,000 by the end of the year, should not deter buyers. "This is the best time to purchase, especially if there are upcoming weddings or occasions. Waiting may only increase your cost," he cautions.

To ensure affordability remains within reach, Shree Sai Gold Palace has introduced lightweight diamond necklaces starting from ₹1 lakh. The store is also expanding its silver jewellery collection, with many pieces handcrafted by the same artisans who work on gold, ensuring a luxurious finish at a lower price point. From gifting items to pooja articles like deepas and plates, silver has become a practical and stylish alternative for many buyers.



Beyond design and affordability, Shree Sai Gold Palace's pricing transparency and exclusive offers are a major draw. Customers enjoy:

- Dubai gold rates, approximately ₹201 less per gram than Bengaluru's prevailing market price
- One gram of gold free with every carat of diamond purchased
- Exchange bonus of ₹00 per gram on old gold traded in for new jewelry

Festive seasons bring added joy. For Akshaya Tritiya, purchases above₹50,000 come with a silver idol of Shree Rama, consecrated in Ayodhya, reflecting the store's deep spiritual connection with its patrons. "It's not just about selling jewellery, it is about sharing blessings," says Dr. Sharavana.

Today, from its seventh store in Malleshwaram, Shree Sai Gold Palace continues to uphold the values it was founded on—devotion, transparency, and excellence. "We've come this far with the support of our customers and the blessings of my parents and the almighty," he shares with gratitude. "But this is just the beginning."

As he puts it, "We don't just sell jewellery—we build lifelong relationships, one pure piece at a time."

For those seeking not just adornment but assurance, Shree Sai Gold Palace promises a gold standard of care. Visit any of the Seven showrooms and discover a world where every sparkle is a blessing.

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Buying Gold this Akshaya Tritiya Brings Prosperity Home

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